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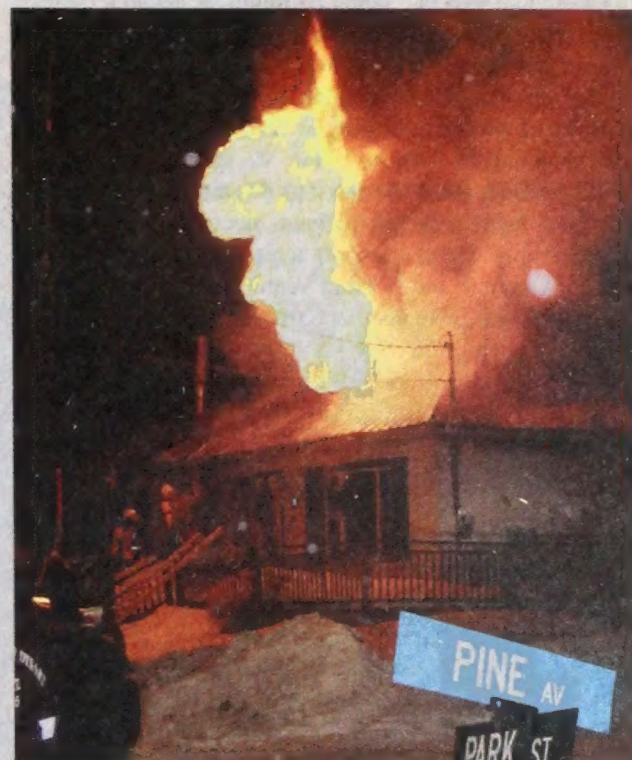
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Haliburton County's Local Weekly Newspaper

Vol 1 Issue 4

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Blaze Destroys Haliburton Home



Photos By:
Brett Irvine

Preparing for Battle

Fasten your seatbelts...

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

"In our wildest dreams the best we can hope for is a moratorium on uranium mining in Ontario."

When it comes to the subject of uranium mining, it looks like Haliburton County is in for a very rough ride. That's the impression anyone in the room would have last Friday night at the meeting hosted by Bancroft Uranium to discuss their Monmouth Uranium Project. The atmosphere was positively electric as the hundred seats in the Lloyd Watson Community Centre filled with members of FUME (Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration), like minded or interested residents and a wide variety of other concerned parties, many of them forced or preferring to stand around the edges of the room.

The numbers of people in attendance alone was a strong indication of just how many residents in Haliburton, and further abroad, are very apprehensive about uranium mining and development in the area. Rough estimates indicate that as many as 140 people attended. That Bancroft Uranium (Bancroft) and area politicians are heading down a very rocky road is obvious no matter what the outcome.

FUME's organizers Robin Simpson and Christine Atrill, along with other members, had been preparing for Bancroft Uranium's meeting for some time.

Uranium Mine cont'd... pg. 2...

Family Dog Perishes - One Firefighter Injured

Around \$200,000 in damages

Dan Schell
Staff Reporter

Haliburton County has been hit with yet another house fire. On Tuesday, February 18, the home of Fergie and Lynn Dewey on 75 Park Street erupted into flames, to the shock and horror of neighbours and passing motorists.

Haliburton's volunteer firefighters arrived on the scene around 6:00pm to extinguish the fire that was already exploding through the roof. Firefighters resorted to pumping water from the creek at the bottom of Pine Ave. to fight the fire.

According to Fire Chief Miles Maughan, the firefighters did an excellent job containing the

fire that had the potential to grow out of control. "The fact that the building is still standing up is very impressive," commented Maughan on the job done by his crew. The fire took a total of six hours to extinguish. One firefighter suffered minor injuries while fighting the blaze, but has fully recovered.

Carrie Mackay, who lives opposite the old Victoria Street Public School in Haliburton witnessed the moment when the black smoke exploded into flame: "I was sitting at my computer doing some work when I heard what I thought might have been a cry for help- but I immediately assumed it was just kids playing outside," said Mackay, "Then, just a few minutes later, my son Austin came running down the stairs saying there was a house on fire up the road at Park Street." Though Mackay said that the fire department

Fire cont'd... pg. 2...

**Inside
This
Issue:**



**Gorilla
Invades
Haliburton...**
Page 18



**Dorset
SnowBall
Highlights...**
Page 10 & 11



**Caboose Plans
On Track...**
Page 6

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Cottagers Become Involved in Uranium Mine Battle

... from pg. 1

"Quite frankly, we want to stop them altogether!"

They held an open session of their own two days prior to Bancroft's open house where a well prepared and informed group of speakers provided almost 80 people with real food for thought. Simpson himself is very dedicated to his cause saying "Bancroft Uranium wants to change our way of life and the beauty of the area, and quite frankly we want to stop them altogether." While he might be called a radical by some and even extremist by others, it's obvious that Simpson is a man committed to protecting the environment, and, he believes, the residents of Haliburton.

Simpson and Atrill spoke in detail at the Wednesday meeting about the history of the Monmouth Project, the claiming process and the risks to private land owners of their land being claimed without any prior knowledge. There are approximately 9,500 acres under claim by both Bancroft Uranium and El Nino Ventures in the Haliburton/Bancroft regions, with another 3,000 acres having potential for activity. Simpson says his own land is under claim, which he just found out last spring, to his shock and amazement: "My partner and I were out walking last spring and literally tripped over the stakes for the claim on our own land." Since then, Simpson says he's learned of thousands of claims staked in the area, most of which are on Crown Land, but there are almost a thousand acres of private land under claim as well. Simpson spoke with passion about the horrors he has learned about uranium and uranium mining across the world. He voiced his concern about the two radioactive waste storage facilities at the old Dyno and Bicroft sites and cautioned that should Bancroft proceed with a mining project there will be another storage facility for tailings.

Simpson's greatest concerns are private lands being staked without owners' knowledge, the potential for contaminating area aquifers and residents being left with a "3500 acre hole in the ground, bereft of growth." Part of Simpson's mantra is "if their lips are moving, they're lying to you!" That's his opinion of mining companies and he doesn't hesitate for one second to let the public know how he feels. Simpson says one of the cards in FUME's favour is that the Irondale River eventually flows into the Trent Severn Waterway system, where there are stringent environmental protection measures. He spoke of two species at risk within the Bancroft claim area and that a monitoring

system should be established to protect them. Simpson has been in contact with Greenpeace and the Sierra Club seeking support and plans to contact aboriginal groups downstream of the Irondale River in the hopes of working with them. Simpson voiced his concern that Municipal Councils are throwing their doors open to mining in the area in the belief that there will be jobs and economic spin offs. Scores of questions were raised about water testing, contamination of private wells and Bancroft Uranium's liability to remediate wells if higher levels of contamination are found after exploratory drilling is conducted.

Tracy Green, a Highlands East resident and Environmental Technologist spoke about mining processes and environmental damage associated with the smelter & tailings in Sudbury. Green reported that in the 1970's the landscape was so desolate as a result of mining the US government brought astronauts to the area for their lunar training. Providing more food for thought, Green said "all mining companies have engineers & scientists to tell us that their operations are safe." She then gave a number of examples of communities left devastated by those same companies. It was Green's position that if the public don't speak out or offer resistance, no one will look for alternatives.

Roger Young, an area resident and VP of his local cottage association, spoke about his experience as an MP in the late 1970's and of his work prior to that with the Minister of Energy Mines & Resources. Young said he acted as a liaison with groups like Atomic Energy of Canada, the National Energy Board and Eldorado Nuclear. Young didn't claim to be an expert; but that he has had experience on both sides of the fence and is knowledgeable about mining and its impact on communities. Referring to the boom & bust nature of the industry, Young spoke of a uranium mining operation (Ranger) in Australia and the devastation left in the wake. Young said his primary concern was the

overall effect of open pit mining, where thousands of acres of land could be stripped of trees and topsoil with nothing left after all the drilling and blasting but a huge hole in the ground or great pile of tailings, changing the configuration of the land forever. He said "in our wildest dreams the best we can hope for is a moratorium on uranium mining in Ontario." Young urged everyone to get informed, get organized, seek the support of neighbours and friends and finally make local politicians listen to their concerns. Young will be speaking with all the Lake Associations downstream of the proposed mine as he feels their support will be a saving grace in practical political terms. Young said that the cottagers pay the lion's share of tax revenues in Highlands East and

their influence could be considerable, adding that cottagers also have the ears of many MP's in southern ridings who can take their concerns all the way to Ottawa.

The final speaker was Doug Smith, local Green Party candidate, who noted that among the numbers present there was only one Councillor and no other local government representation. Smith said that small communities often don't realize when they are being bulldozed by industry and in order to discern the truth, experts are necessary to help deal with "heavyweights like Patrick Moore." Smith said his party was pushing for a moratorium on mining and cautioned those in attendance about a mining company's eminent domain, or right of expropriation which in essence allows developer's access to private property rich in oil, gas or other natural resources.

The one message that was repeated by all speakers throughout the evening was for everyone to find out what they could. People were asked to go on line, check with their libraries and government agencies and take any measure possible to become informed, and then talk with friends and neighbours to pass that knowledge along. Smith closed his presentation by reminding the audience that "to be informed is to be empowered!" and Simpson asked everyone to get out to Bancroft Uranium's meeting.

More uranium meetings - and a summary of meetings.... pg. 14...



Park St. Fire Cont'd...

... from pg. 1

came right away, the damage was already done, "In a few minutes the smoke became fire, and the house was done."

Jane Miller, who lives across the street to the Park St. residence, heard about the fire when at dinner with her husband, but was stunned to find it so close to her home. "People beside us were saying that there was a fire on the other side of town," described Miller, "When we came home, all we could see were the fire trucks on the corner and we were both shocked."

The fire ravaged the house, causing total damages estimated to be around \$200,000, according to Chief Maughan. The Dewey's weren't injured, but their family dog perished.

According to Betty Smith, a volunteer at the 4C's, the Dewey family arrived at the Lily Ann around 10:00pm to get some clothes to replace all that was lost in the blaze. "They



were a little overwhelmed, but were very appreciative of the support," said Smith. The family has been placed in a hotel by their insurance company for the time being, according to Smith.

"They lost everything, including the family pet," said Wayne Cox, President of the 4C's who was also there to assist the Dewey family that night. This has been a common occurrence recently at the 4C's, according to the Cox, who has seen many come in for assistance due to house fires.

Maughan said that with this recent spree of fires in the community, it is important that everyone be aware of what to do when a fire starts. "Call 911 immediately," stressed Maughan who stated that the earlier the fire department knows of a fire the faster it will be put out.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined, and is under investigation.

The following evening firefighters were called to the same scene as it appeared to a neighbour that smoke was still coming from the house. Firefighters responded and quickly contained anymore outbreaks.

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Saturday  -6°C -12°C A few flurries	Sunday  -7°C -14°C Variable cloudiness
Monday  -1°C -5°C Cloudy with sunny breaks	Tuesday  2°C -9°C Light snow
Wednesday  -3°C -8°C Light Snow.	Fire Rating  LOW

Weather is susceptible to change.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

649

February 16, 2008

19 29 33 35 44 49

Bonus Number 22

Encore 0896316

SUPER 7

February 15, 2008

03 06 12 15 16 17 29

Bonus Number 35

Encore 7898047

These are all unofficial numbers. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

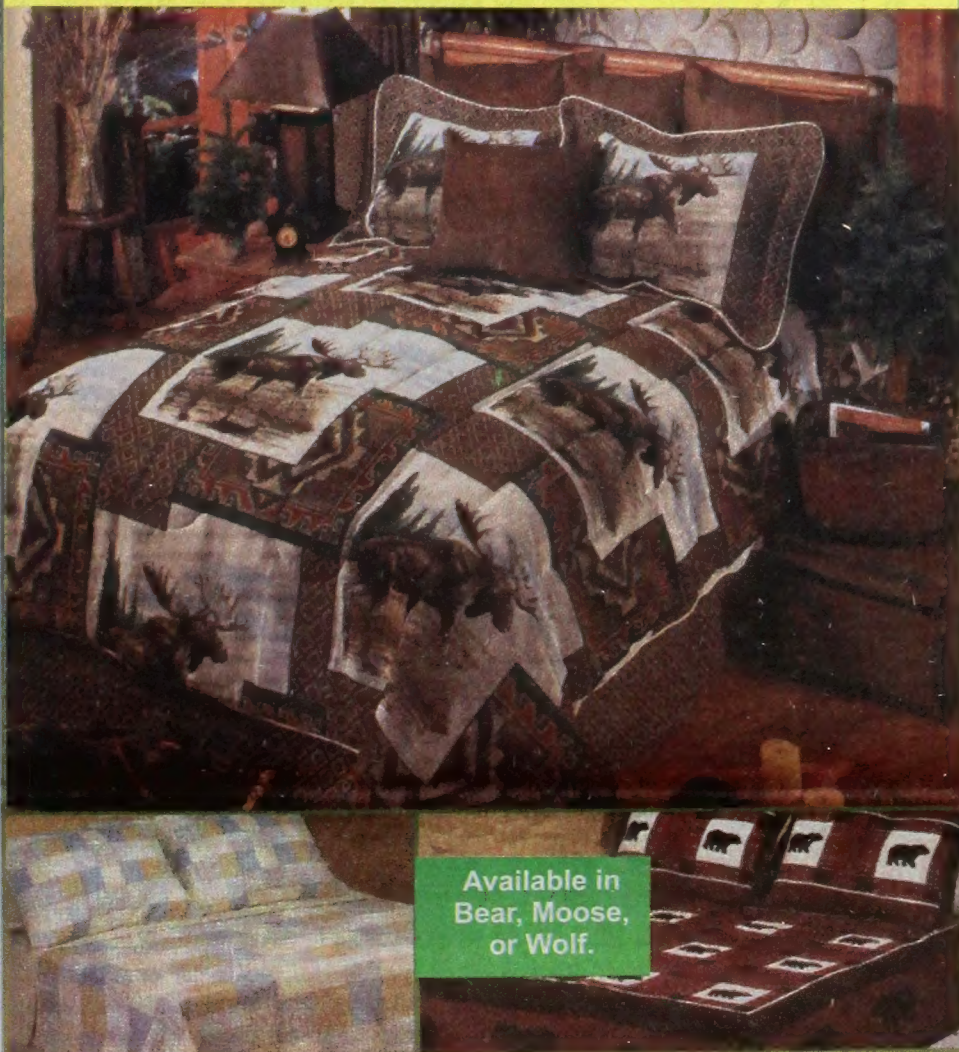
As of January 28, all lottery tickets must be signed.



Weather and Lotto Numbers

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Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Feb. 21, 1994, CIA operative Aldrich Ames is arrested for selling secrets to the Soviet Union. At least 10 men were killed after Ames revealed their identities, and more were sent to Russian gulags. Both Ames and his wife were later convicted. Ames was sentenced to life in prison, while his wife, as part of a plea-bargain agreement, received a five-year sentence.

On Feb. 22, 1732, George Washington is born in Westmoreland County, Va. Part of his success in the Revolutionary War was due to his shrewd use of an "ungentlemanly," but effective, tactic of "guerrilla" warfare, in which stealthy "hit-and-run" attacks foiled British armies.

On Feb. 23, 1940, folk singer Woody Guthrie writes one of his best-known songs, "This Land Is Your Land." Guthrie died in 1967, having lived long enough to see the tune become a rallying song for the civil-rights movement.

On Feb. 24, 1786, Wilhelm Karl Grimm, the younger of the two Brothers Grimm, is born in Hanau, Germany. The brothers' collection of oral folktales includes "Hansel and Gretel," "Snow White," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Sleeping Beauty," "Rapunzel" and "Rumpelstiltskin."

On Feb. 25, 1890, Vlacheslav Skryabin, foreign minister for the Soviet Union who took the revolutionary name Molotov, is born in Russia. An advocate of Marxist revolution, he promoted the practice of throwing bottles filled with flammable liquid at the enemy, and the famous "Molotov cocktail" was born.

On Feb. 26, 1972, a dam collapses in West Virginia, flooding the Buffalo Creek Valley and killing 118 people. The collapse unleashed a 20-foot wall of water that roared through 17 towns, leaving 4,000 people homeless.

On Feb. 27, 1827, students dance through the streets of New Orleans, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations. The students, inspired by their experiences in Paris, donned masks and jester costumes and staged their own Fat Tuesday festivities.



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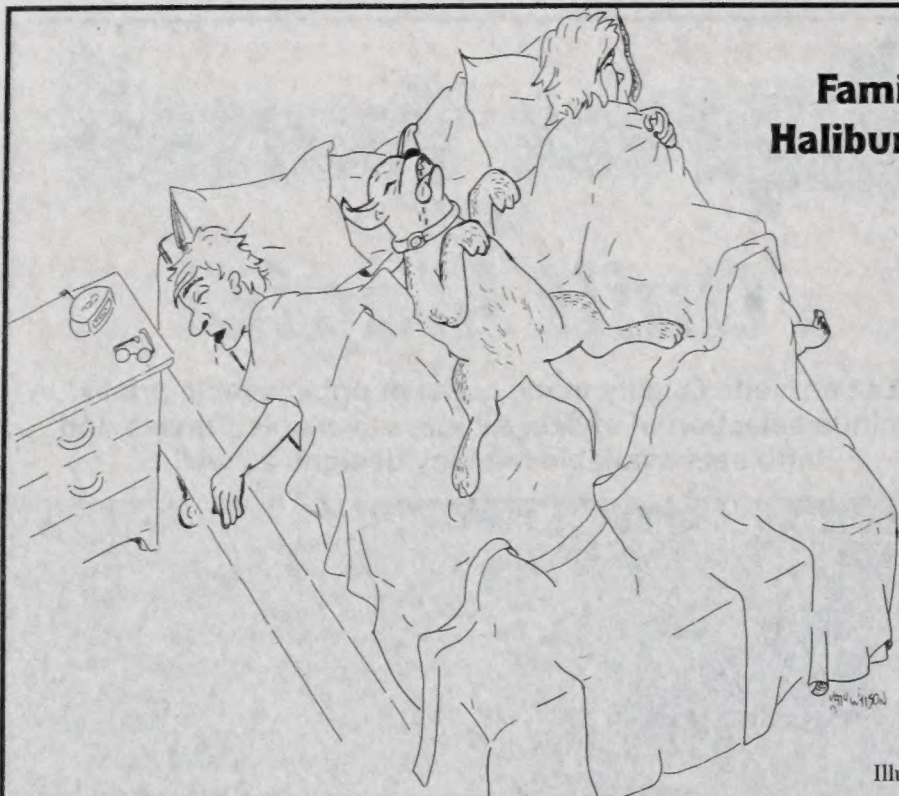


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County Voice

Family Day In Haliburton County



Illustrated by Kath Watson

Uranium Issue: Where's the Democracy?

Dear Editor:

Bancroft Uranium's public meeting in Wilberforce offered a fascinating illustration of how democracy seems to have failed. It was abundantly clear at the meeting that there was an overwhelming majority in opposition to Bancroft Uranium's proposed mining project. Equally interesting (from a democratic point of view), majority opinion

alone isn't going to stop Bancroft Uranium, because they are in no way accountable to the people of this county.

Letter of the Week

For real change, we need our elected officials, and they seemed to be absent from the question-and-answer session on Friday night. This lack of interest in an important local issue is a sad failing in the role they play in the democratic system.

In Canada, it is the job of elected officials (whether municipal, provincial, or federal) to represent the people of their riding, and to make decisions on behalf of those people – ALL of those people, I might add, and not only those who voted for them or do favours for them, and not just members of their party. It is the elected official's responsibility to remain aware of their constituents' needs and opinions throughout the course of their term. Furthermore, it is the elected official's responsibility to make decisions in accordance with those needs and opinions. Of course, it is impossible to make everyone happy all the time; however, an astute politician should be able to find a way to at least satisfy a majority of his or her constituents.

This means that what the elected officials think as individuals is secondary. Their personal opinions should have nothing to do with whether the will of the people is acted upon. The politicians have a responsibility to represent us and ultimately do what the majority thinks is best. If they are failing to do that, they are failing their responsibility, and we need to hold them accountable RIGHT NOW: call them, write them, drop by their office, confront them on the street – do whatever it takes for them to hear your words.

I think it is important that Laurie Scott, Barry Devolin, and the councillors of Highlands East take careful notice of what occurred at the public meeting last Friday and act upon it. That is their job, after all. I hope that their failure to listen to a growing number of their constituents is an oversight, and that they will not continue to let us down.

Christopher King

More Letters ... pg. 5...

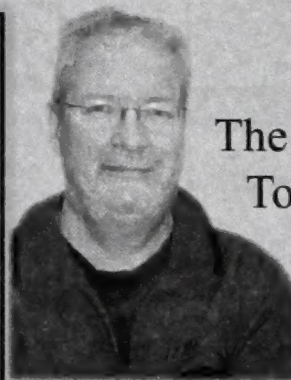
Letters To The Editor Welcomed !!

We are now accepting Letters to the Editor - so let us know what you have to say. You can email them to letters@countyvoice.ca, or mail to Letters - Box 930 Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0 - or drop them off at the office located in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton.

EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT

By Stephen Patrick

The Uranium Battle: Long, Tough, and Maybe Even Nasty!



Wow! Wasn't there something heart-warming and reassuring about the passion displayed at those public meetings last week in Highlands East? As reported in detail

in this issue by the Voice's Liz Danielsen, the battle between the Fight Uranium Mining and Exploration (FUME) group and Bancroft Uranium promises to be prolonged, tough, and possibly vicious. The rhetoric was uncompromising and the respective interpretations of the "facts" were chasms apart.

The two combatants represent powerful and tenacious interests that don't like to lose. FUME may appear to be the underdog, but they will almost certainly have the backing of Cottagers Associations, many politicians, and even some Aboriginal Groups. For its part, no company like Bancroft Uranium hires Patrick Moore and Greenspirit as PR consultants for a short-term fight. Inviting Moore (reviled as a turncoat by many environmentalists) to the table sends a very clear message to FUME and their allies, to wit, we're in for the long haul, and we think

we're going to win. Bancroft Uranium describes Moore as a kind and gentle soul who, tired of confrontation, wants to work towards solutions that benefit everyone. Note to Bancroft Uranium: Moore won't be singing Kumbaya around any FUME campfire any time soon.

But you know, for a brief, shining moment last week it felt as if we were back in the 1960s again (and yes, this writer does remember that decade, in much detail.) The process itself, with its open meetings, company presentations, claims and counterclaims, its public anger, corporate schmooze, and edgy rude rawness shows that at the very least Haliburton County still has a political pulse. Even if there were few elected officials present at either meeting, you can bet no one at any level of political responsibility in Highlands East, or within the wider County, will be able to ignore the issue in the coming months: "it's not within my jurisdiction" will not cut it as a political response. Local citizens are very much aware that the Asphalt Plant touted for the Bark Lake area near Irondale will probably go ahead, despite local protests. It was as if the forces sympathetic to the Asphalt Plant simply had to outlast the opposition, and, without any discernable political support against it, that's just what happened.

But this proposal may be different. The opposition has the look and feel already of a very interesting coalition of interests. Little Glamour Lake Cottagers' Association V.P. Roger Young has an impressive background both as regards the actual issues and as a former successful federal politician. No crazy, long-haired hot-headed hippy here! And for its part, Bancroft Uranium seems well prepared, resolutely open to and respectful of, debate and to increased public input.

The uranium mining development issue may well be a defining one for a generation to come in Haliburton County. Already the claims and counter-claims (no pun intended) seem to come from different planets. In subsequent issues the Voice will detail these differences as best we can, with input from Bancroft Uranium President Les Hammond as well as from Roger Young and others.

"Thousands of hectares devastated for ever" some say: "Forty permanent jobs with no environmental damage of any kind" says another. Stay tuned – it will for sure be an interesting ride.

The County Voice

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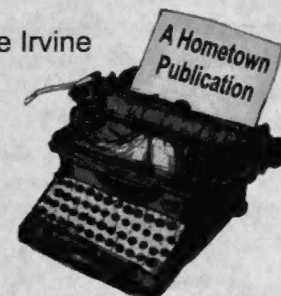
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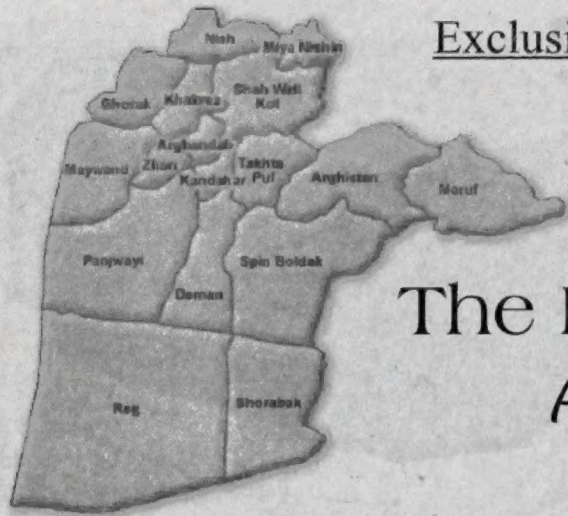
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Exclusive to the County Voice - Part 4

A Helping Hand

The Road to Kandahar

A Soldier's Journal

by Captain David Beatty

Over the past few weeks, there have been several requests for information asking what people can do to support our troops deployed in Afghanistan and abroad. Here are a few suggestions for those readers who would like to contribute.

Buy official "Support Our Troops" merchandise. The only "Support Our Troops" merchandise sanctioned by the Canadian Forces (CF) includes

ball caps, t-shirts, car and fridge magnets, cling vinyl window decals, bracelets, lapel pins, and more. Order these and other items online at CANEX. All proceeds from the sales of CFPSA "Support Our Troops" items are reinvested directly into morale and welfare programs for CF members and their families. Wearing red on Fridays: Wear something red on Fridays to show

support for the CF and their families. (Red "Support Our Troops" t-shirts and golf shirts available at: www.cfpsa.com/canex).

Writing to the Troops: Let CF members know they are appreciated by posting a message on the online message board at http://www.forces.gc.ca/site/Community/Messageboard/index_e.asp

Making a donation: In order to avoid disappointment and to ensure that the CF logistics system is not overburdened, individuals wanting to conduct donation campaigns are encouraged to do so in accordance with the following programs:

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Donate to the Wounded Soldier Fund

Information on shipping personal mail or parcels to deployed members can be found at the following links:

For groups and individuals external to the CF: www.cfpsa.com/en/psp/donations/index.asp

For CF family members and personal friends:

www.cfpsa.com/en/psp/mil/sending_e.asp

CF family members and personal friends can take advantage of the Canada Post free parcel service offer at: www.forces.gc.ca/site/focus/parcels/index_e.asp

One area which is consistently overlooked by the media is support to the families of those deployed. The stress put on the family of a service member deployed is intense. Every time an announcement is made of Canadian soldiers being wounded or killed in Afghanistan (or other operational deployment areas), families across Canada begin the "please don't let it be....." Prayer. The stress within the first three to four hours is tremendous. To understand this, I feel it is important for the readers to understand what happens when a soldier is wounded or killed.

If a soldier is wounded, the CF attempts to have them "self notify", in this case they get to call home to their next of kin to tell them what has happened to them. If their wounds preclude them from 'self notifying', then the Commanding Officer (CO) from the respective "Rear Party" will personally contact the next of kin and provide as much

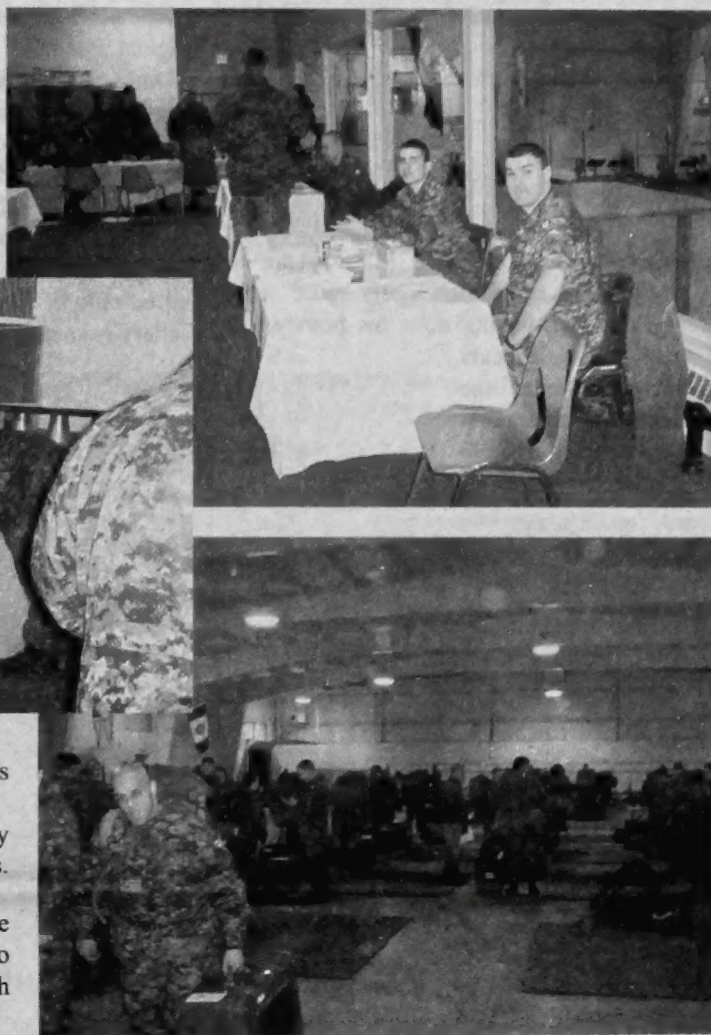
Letters to the Editor

Thank You to the Village Employees Clearing the Streets

Congratulations Brett and Joanne and Team members on your new paper.

I would like to put out a personal thanks to the village employees that have been working on our streets this winter. I have heard them many times in the wee hours of the morning working on clearing the snow before people start their drive to work. Not only are the streets clear but also the sidewalks and walkways. My morning starts off with a nice walk with my dog and what a pleasure it has been to not have to trudge through knee deep snow. I have not been here long enough to know who these folks are so if you know anyone working on the roads please give them a big thanks from me.

Janet Sheehey
Janknit's Studio



information that he has available. If a soldier is killed, the CO of the Rear Party contacts the family personally: this is usually done through the dreaded "knock on the door". No names of injured or killed personnel are released until such time as the individual's next of kin has been notified. As you can imagine, this period of time for families who have sons/daughters/husbands/wives deployed is very stressful: all they can do is hope the phone does not ring or, even worse, hear the knock on the door with a staff car in the driveway.

If you want to help out you can wear red on Fridays, buy a support our troops magnet or if you know someone in the country who has a family member deployed, give them a call and ask how they are doing.

Backgrounder – Exercise Southern Bear

Exercise SOUTHERN BEAR is a collective training exercise for Joint Task Force Afghanistan Rotation 6 and for Joint Task Force Afghanistan Headquarters. The exercise training activities will occur during the period 09-29 February 2008. The location for this exercise will be Fort Bliss Texas and was chosen due to its similarity to the terrain and arid climate of KANDAHAR PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN. It was also necessary to choose an area that will permit mechanized combined arms training during the winter months. All units deploying to AFGHANISTAN within the next nine months will complete training and confirmation up to and including company level, combat team live fire training, with the integration of LAV III Infantry Fighting Vehicles, Leopard Tanks, Artillery and Close Air Support being provided by Canadian and American fighter aircraft. The realistic live fire activities and dry force on force will set the conditions for JTFa Task Force elements to prepare themselves for deployment to AFGHANISTAN.

Ali elements of JTFA HQ will be participating in small arms practices (grenades, rifles and pistols), Live Fire Ambush ranges, Counter Improvised Explosive Device training, Live Fire Shoot House, Convoy Operations and will live under conditions which closely replicate those of KANDAHAR Airfield.



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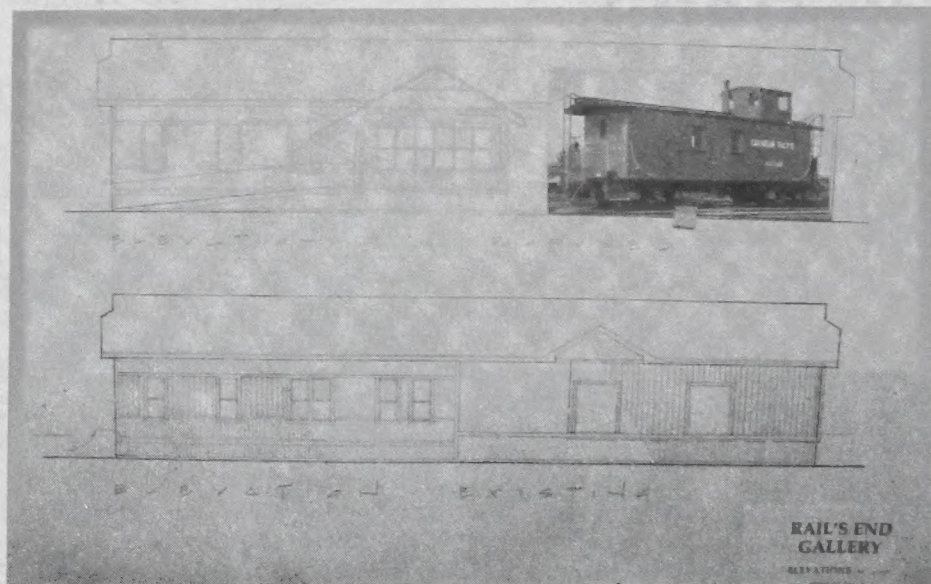
This Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce event is an evening to celebrate and honour the achievements and contributions of people who live and work in Haliburton County.

Nomination forms available on website:
hhchamber.on.ca



Can the Caboose Pay its Freight?

by Laurie Jones

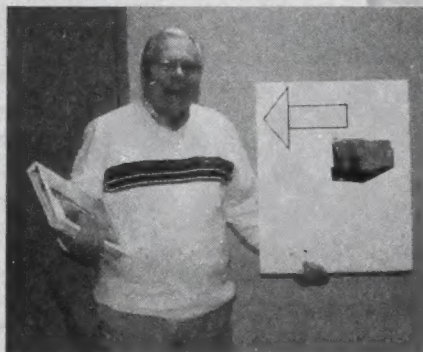


Orange icon of our railway heritage, Haliburton's much talked about caboose is a colourful reminder that without the railway we probably would not be here today. Last week a public meeting was held at the Haliburton Legion to try and answer two questions: "What purpose will the caboose have?" and "Who will operate it?"

Eddie Layman of Maple Lake stated that, according to the Toronto Star, our caboose is one of just three cabooses that remain in the province of Ontario. There are plenty more sentimental arguments for keeping it in the family, but nowadays according to the "box office model" of our cultural custodians, you just can't ride without a ticket.

George Kadoke, the man responsible for the blue bonnet the caboose is sporting this winter, spearheaded the discussion by inviting attendees to consider the question "What purpose should the caboose serve?" By Kadoke's account there is no question the funds will be raised and he intends to do it, by working with The Rotary Club of Haliburton, local business and volunteers.

Andrew Hodgson asked Mr. Kadoke to outline the renovation costs more fully and Kadoke, having done his homework, obliged. It appears rumours about the cost of renovation have been wildly

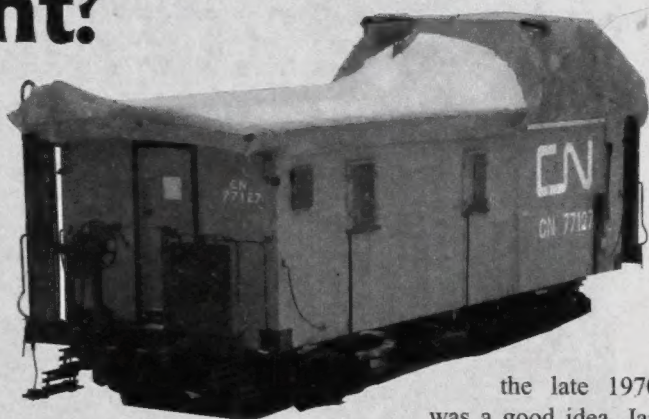


overstated. It is estimated a modest \$12,000 will stabilize the structure, put on a new roof, refinish and move it from the parking lot within the immediate area. Sounds doable; the question remains, then what?

Jim Blake, Community Economic Development Coordinator for the Arts Council of Haliburton, led the discussion, using flip chart paper to record suggestions from the audience. He later passed round brightly coloured markers and asked everyone to check beside their two favourite ideas, of which there was no shortage. Barb Bolin suggested the caboose become a short term

artist's rental studio. Someone else suggested it move to the park under an overhead shelter, similar to the town dock structure. Or perhaps it could become an outpost of our Museum across the lake. Things got a little crazy with the idea of it becoming a chip truck. Model railroaders were out in force, offering to assist with historical details and colour notes. (It seems orange really is the original colour!)

Doug Stephen, of Kinmount, encouraged everyone to visit our neighbours at the Art Gallery of Bancroft where they turned a caboose into a tiny, perfect gallery space. He felt sure that where "there's a will there'll be a way to save the caboose". Many communities have created cultural hubs in retired railway stations. The Whitby Station Gallery is another fine example.

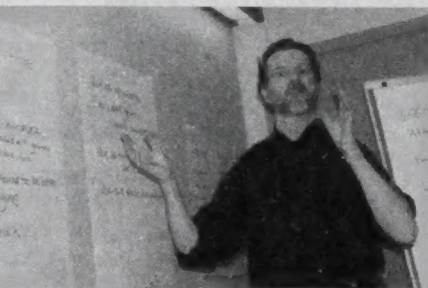


the late 1970s) was a good idea. Janis

Parker, speaking as a member of the Gallery, and its representative on Dysart Municipal Council, came well prepared with four drawings that showed the caboose adjoined to the Gallery. Local Architect Hugh Taylor did the drawings and drew everyone's attention to the "handsome elevation" the station presents on the approach from the intersection of Highland and York Streets. His drawings preserved the look and feel of the station and caboose and married them with functionality.

In the end the concept that got the most checkmarks was to have the caboose become part of the cultural hub that Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre is becoming. There was great concern over keeping the authentic exterior details and to a lesser degree, people felt the interior should retain some historic flavour. As Businessman Jim Henwood noted, "the caboose is a tourist attraction and historic monument". The caboose was built in November 1922 and is 29 feet long by 9 feet wide according to Kadoke. Clearly this presents some accessibility issues for the public as a standalone structure.

For example, would it need washrooms? How could it become wheelchair-accessible? How much traffic could/would it handle? Who would staff it? Discussion got muddy over who should control its use. The Haliburton Museum? The Rails End Gallery & Arts Centre? The Municipality? Right now the caboose is owned by the Municipality of Dysart et al. George Kadoke plans to bring the results of the meeting to Members of Council, on whose shoulders, for the time being, rests responsibility for this bright cultural landmark.



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Barb Bolin suggested the caboose become a short term

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New Map On The Way

If you have been getting confused about any of the new road names since the development of the new 911 system, an updated map is soon to come. Council just announced a new county map to be made available to the public in time for the Cottage Life Show for mid to late March.



"Whoa, whoa there, friend. Your money's no good here."

ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

Take this Isaac Asimov's Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: ANIMAL SIMILES

Provide the name of an animal. Alternate answers may be possible. (e.g., Busy as a _____. Answer: Bee.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Stubborn as a ____.

Answer _____

2. Quiet as a ____.

Answer _____

3. Gentle as a ____.

Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. Slow as a ____.

Answer _____

5. Sly as a ____.

Answer _____

6. Slippery as an ____.

Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. Happy as a ____.

Answer _____

8. Weak as a ____.

Answer _____

9. Mad as a wet ____.

Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. Mule. 2. Mouse. 3. Lamb. 4. Snail. 5. Fox. 6. Eel. 7. Lark. 8. Kitten. 9. Hen.

SCORING:

18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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Tractor Trailer Collision on Musclow-Greenview Road

On Tuesday the 19th of February 2008 Officers from the Bancroft detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police responded to the report of a motor vehicle collision on Musclow-Greenview Road in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. Investigation revealed that a 2005 Peterbuilt tractor trailer with a load of lumbar was north bound on Musclow-Greenview Road when it lost control on an icy hill. The tractor trailer entered the west ditch at the bottom of the hill and rolled onto its' side. The 47 year old male driver from the Municipality of Hastings Highlands did not sustain injuries as a result of the collision. Investigation is ongoing in relation to the collision.

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Police Reports

Male Charged with Possession of Stolen Property

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged a male after receiving a report on Saturday February 16, 2008 that a snow machine had been stolen from a residence in Haliburton.

Officers recovered the stolen machine in the Village of Haliburton and have charged Scott William Vineham 20 years of Dysart et al with Possession of Stolen Property Under \$5000.00 and Breach of Probation.

Mr. Vineham will be appearing in Minden court on April 2, 2008 in relation to the charges.

Break and Enter

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment are investigating a break and enter that occurred to a storage trailer at a job site on West Shore Drive in the Township of Dysart et al sometime during the night of February 13, 2008.

The culprits forced their way into the storage trailer and stole a large quantity of tools. Anyone with information on this incident is asked to call the O.P.P. Communications Centre at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

Young Person Charged for Taking Vehicle

On Friday the 15th of February 2008 Officers from the Bancroft detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police received the report of a young person taking a minivan without permission from Highway 62 in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. Officers located the van in the Town of Bancroft and arrested a young person. A 15 year old male of the Municipality of Hastings Highlands has been charged with take motor vehicle without owners consent and breach of probation contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada and possession of a schedule 2 drug contrary to the Controlled Drug and Substance Act. The young person was released from custody and is scheduled to appear in Youth Court on the 20th of March 2008.

Break and Enter to Highlands East Residence

On Saturday the 16th of February 2008 Officers from the Bancroft detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police responded to the report of a break, enter and theft on Spooks Bay Lane in the Municipality of Highlands East. Investigation revealed that sometime between Sunday the 10th of February and Saturday the 16th of February unknown suspects smashed a window and gained entry to the residence. Property reported stolen included a home theatre system, golf clubs, power tools, DVD's, a satellite system and food. Anyone with information about this break, enter and theft is encouraged to contact the Bancroft OPP at (613) 332-2112 or CRIMESTOPPERS at 1-800-267-4357.

Vehicle Stolen from Bancroft

On the night of Saturday the 16th of February 2008 Officers from the Bancroft detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police received the report of a motor vehicle stolen from the parking lot of the Royal Canadian Legion on Station Street in the Town of Bancroft. Investigation revealed that sometime between 9:30 pm and 10:00 pm unknown suspect took the 2001 grey Buick, Ontario plate number ALED 276. The Bancroft OPP is seeking the public's assistance in locating the vehicle and asking that anyone with information contact the Bancroft OPP at (613) 332-2112 or CRIMESTOPPERS at 1-800-267-4357.

Snowmobile Stolen from Trail

On Sunday the 17th of February 2008 Officers from the Bancroft detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police received the report of a stolen snowmobile from a trail in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. The snowmobile had broken down on the trail and when the owner returned to pick it up, the snowmobile was gone. Reported stolen is a 2004 Arctic Cat Fire cat. Anyone with information about this theft is encouraged to contact the Bancroft OPP at (613) 332-2112 or CRIMESTOPPERS at 1-800-267-4357.

Driver Sustains Minor Injuries

On Sunday the 17th of February 2008 Officers from the Bancroft detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police responded to the report of a motor vehicle collision on Township Road 62 in the Municipality of Hastings Highlands. Investigation revealed that a 2004 Toyota Eco was westbound on Township Road 62, entering a curve when it slid, struck a snow bank and rolled. The driver, a 26 year old female of Guelph sustained minor injuries and was transported to Barry's Bay hospital by a family member. No charges were laid in relation to the collision.

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-Robert Strauss

Thursday, February 21, 2008

Haliburton Forest Poker Run Draws Over 400 Participants

Joel Potter

Staff Reporter

Last Saturday 424 snowmobilers gathered at the Haliburton Forest for the 19th annual Poker Run.

Arriving at the front gates of the Haliburton Forest, I was greeted with a packed parking lot of trucks, trailers and cold but enthusiastic snowmobilers.

The annual event raises money for the Haliburton Fire Department. I had a chance to get out on the trails with Russell, one of the Forest's fine trail wardens. While heading to the first of five stops on the ride, we encountered a never-ending procession of snowmobiles traveling through the beautiful trails and lakes that make up the Forest. We stopped for a couple of dogsled crossings along the way before arriving at our first destination: the pancake and hot chocolate cabin at the end of Black Lake. Pulling up to the cabin reminded me of looking for a parking spot at the mall around Christmas, but snowmobile style. The jovial crowd of bundled up snowmobilers spent their time at the stop swapping stories of the still-young day of riding, as well as checking out each other's sleds.

All ages and genders were well represented at the event. There were no age restrictions, and as long as every rider had a valid snowmobile license, everyone was welcome to participate in the festivities.

Inside the cabin I was welcomed by friendly volunteers who offered me a plate of flapjacks, a steaming mug of hot chocolate and a much-needed seat in front of the woodstove. After our extremities were warmed and our hungers were satisfied we were back to the trails.

Each checkpoint along the way had a different theme, including different food, and were sponsored and staffed by one of the members of the Kennis Lake Business Association. At each checkpoint, riders also collected a playing card—hence the “poker” in poker run. After collecting a card from each stop, riders were left with a five-card poker hand.

This year's winning hand was collected by Darren Hardie, who had a straight flush king high. He took home a 2008 Ski-Doo GTX 550, donated by the Haliburton Forest. The second and third place hands were both full houses and also earned the riders some great prizes.

Winning hand or not, all riders enjoyed the good times, scenic trails and great food.



Storm Playdown Update

The three remaining Highland Storm Rep teams took to the ice this past weekend in Ontario Minor Hockey Association quarterfinal Playdown series.

Greg Carpenter's Midget team played the Schomberg Red Wings at home and away, but lost twice by scores 5 - 2 and 6 - 2. The Atom AE's lost to the Wasaga Stars on Saturday by a score of 6 - 2, and were eliminated from the Playdowns. The AEs will continue with League Playoffs.

The Atom A's travelled to Wasaga Beach for two

games over the weekend down by one in their quarterfinal. On Saturday the Storm's potent offence was shut out for the first time this season as the Stars won 1 - 0. On Sunday, in a do-or-die game, the Storm got their game back and defeated Wasaga Beach 4 - 1. It was the first defeat for the Stars in 17 games: the next contest is at 5 PM in Wilberforce this coming Saturday, February 23rd. If the Storm wins, the rubber match will be on Sunday back in Wasaga Beach.

Sports This Week

Boys Basketball

■ Thursday Feb 21 - Boys Basketball COSSA Championships

Red Hawk Hockey

■ Thursday, Feb 21 - Boys Hockey Hosts Quarter Final Sudden Death
(NB - if necessary - 1st Place earns a bye - Game time: tba)

Wrestling

■ Wednesday Feb 20: COSSA Meet IE Weldon in Lindsay - All Day

Snowboarding

■ Fri, Feb 22: Snow Boarding - COSSA MEET
Sir Sams Ski Area - All Day

Girls Volleyball

■ Thursday Feb 21 - Junior Girls Volleyball Kawartha Hosted by HHSS - All Day Event

■ Monday Feb 25- Volleyball COSSA @ Clarke All day Meet

■ Junior Girls Volleyball COSSA @ LDHS All Day

Curling

Red Hawks

■ Boys Kawartha Curling @ SPSS
All Day

Haliburton Curling Club

■ Feb 22 - 23 -24 - Junior and Bantam
OCA Mixed Bonspiel - Weekend Event



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Clemens vs Baseball Redemption is on the Way

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

The New York Times reports:

"In a one-hour news conference Monday that neither he nor the Yankees could have ever wished on themselves, a composed Andy Pettitte apologized for using human growth hormone (HGH) in 2002 and 2004, said there was no other drug use he was concealing and revealed an awkward breakdown in his communications with Roger Clemens, his friend and former teammate."

Here's what I think about that.

Awkward breakdown in communication? Friend? Andy, Andy, Andy... give your noggin a wobble. Roger Clemens called you out. Roger Clemens said you mis-remembered (sic). Remember? Roger Clemens, your alleged pal, threw you under the 3:10 to Yuma and now you're toppling off a Bronx turnip truck in your haste to smooth the crease in your relationship?

Roger Clemens, in a ludicrous effort to marshal public opinion and salve his own tarnished reputation has called you a liar. He's doing this not for baseball or the fans. He's doing it for Roger. Because Roger wants one more thing from baseball. Roger Clemens is desperately seeking Cooperstown. Like Pete Rose and Barry Bonds, Clemens' coronation into the hallowed Hall of Fame is now at risk.

Here's what I think about that.

Good, beautiful. Because, I'm not buying the denials Roger. And neither are 95% of sportswriters who unfortunately for you, but not for baseball, hold the keys to Cooperstown.

Here's what the Galatians once said about that.

"We reap what we sow."

I come from a long line of Icelandic farmers and my uncle Gusti used to tell me something else when we were cleaning out the dairy barns. "The higher you pile it... the more it smells."

Andy Pettitte wouldn't succumb to low jabs.

Here's what the genteel Pettitte said about Roger and he.

"I hope the friendship with Roger will still be there," he said. "I love the guy like a brother."

Chagrined and bemused, I just had to phone Dr Phil on this one. Dr. Phil is our rustic guru on all things interpersonal. The swami on smarmy. The Duke of Churl. The rapport rapper.

Here's what the venerable ol' straight-shootin' Okie skull shill had to say about that.

"Andy Pettitte is paddlin' upstream on that long river in Africa which my pappy use to call De' Nile and he has to get hisself' straight on this whole thing, pull his head out of the pickle barrel and realize that his so-called buddy ain't no friend, but a skunk, weasel and dissembler. Andy Pettitte is a durn' good pitcher and if he asked me... I'd tell him it's about time to rear back and chuck one high and tight at Roger the Dodger's prodigious melon.

"Whoooooeeeeee! Down in Oklahoma... we got tornadoes, pickups, shotgun weddings, good ole boys and a very low tolerance for skunks. Someone calls me a liar and he gets a double servin' of the ole chin music. So y'all keep a low profile Roger, next time you trip on down to Tulsa. We all got a low tolerance for snakes down here."

Here's what I think about that.

Excuse me Dr Phil... is that degree hanging on your wall in Psychology or Hillbilly Patois? But I digress.

Here's what Pettitte went on to say in his very forthcoming press conference last Monday. "I am sorry; I know in my heart why I did things. I know that God knows that. I know that I'm going to have to stand before him one day. The truth hurts sometimes and you don't want to share it. The truth will set you free."

Random thoughts on liars, cheats, and dissemblers -
With pops from Dr. Phil and JC

Here's what I know about that.

The truth will set you free is from John 8:32. John was quoting his boss.

The guy who said it wasn't above a little unbridled dispute arbitration back in the day. At one point he kicked a little Pharisee butt in a temple at Passover. He chased some cows, tipped some tables and placed a foot up the Pharisees' proverbials. He chased them out. Threw them and their gold coinage into the street. Told them they had turned his dad's pad into a "den of thieves."

Here's what I think about that.

Can we call this guy back from waivers? And give him a very big rubber bat? Put him on a gaping, green, grass-lined temple - we'll call it Fenway Park. Then, can we place Clemens, Bonds, Sosa, Palmeiro and Mark

McGwire somewhere on that luxuriant grassy hummock in long flowing robes and sandals? Can we call them the Pharisees? And then can we sell tickets? (I'll buy four behind home plate.) And then can we have their various and tainted testimonies blaring out of the Public Address system?

And then, please, can we let the guy with the bat explain to the assembled cheaters what Teddy Roosevelt was really rappin' on when he said: "Speak softly, but carry a big stick?"

Here's what I think about that.

"Run Barry!... Run Roger! Hurry Hard!"

"There's a guy with a big rubber bat a comin'!"

"And he's bringin'... Redemption."

Red Hawks Win Two, Drop One Loss to Holy Cross Prompts Sudden Death

by Terrance Gavan



The table was set and the marbles were rolling last Tuesday in Peterborough.

A high school hockey tilt, pitting the first place Holy Cross Hurricanes against the second place Haliburton High Red Hawks, fulfilled fan expectations. It was a close, hard fought contest, but the marbles eventually spun away from the Hawks in the ebbing moments of the contest.

Hawk coach Ron Yake said the game lived up to the advanced billing. The Red Hawks played the Canes to a last minute flurry, but eventually dropped a hard fought 4-2 decision to the Hurricanes.

The Hawks were down 3-2 when they pulled goalie Ian Sachs in the waning minutes of the tilt and the Canes managed an empty-netter to seal the deal.

Yake said his young skaters set the table with two wins leading into Tuesday's contest against the first place Hurricanes. That set up a crucial struggle for first place in the Double A Boy's Hockey league. At stake, an inviting bye in the first round of the playoffs, which crank into action this week.

"We played well," said Yake on Wednesday. "It was 3-2 and they made it 4-2 on that empty net. Other than that it was close."

The loss sets up a quarter final, sudden death match-up

against a team still to be determined at press time.

A 7-2 win against Cobourg West last Thursday and a subsequent default by IE Weldon pushes the Hawk record to 9-3-2 on the season.

Yake said that the Hawks went into Cobourg West a little lethargic in the opening frames.

"We were down 2-0 after two periods, but we pulled it together in the third," said Yake.

The Hawks scored seven unanswered goals in the third, a statement that proved once again that the prepossessing Hawks are capable of dynamic fluctuations melded with a tendency to explosive bias.

Unfortunately, a strike of maintenance workers in Kawartha has led to Lindsay's IE Weldon having to default a number of home tilts because of a lack of available ice.

"Weldon had to default the contest because they didn't have a rink to play on," said Yake.

The quarter final match-ups will see seven paying two, six versus three and the fifth and fourth place teams sawing off in one game sudden death match-ups.

Hawks will host the seventh place team today (Thursday, Feb 21) at Dysart Arena. Game time is at 2:15 in the afternoon.

Yake is expecting a big turnout for the critical quarter final game.

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Portraits of Dorset



Photos By:
Lyn Winans



Haliburton Hosts Figure Skating Interclub Finals Spins, Leaps and Lutz Coming March 2

Terrance Gavan

Sports Editor

Lutz, Axel, Salchow, Choctaw, Biellmann and Rocker is not a German law firm.

They won't be tilting a court-side windmill at legal eagles William Shatner and James Spader in an all-new episode of television's *Boston Legal*.

Lutz, Axel, Salchow, Choctaw, Biellmann and Rocker, in quick-step combination with a variety of spins, counters and crossovers will be on fulsome display as Haliburton hosts the 2008 Kawartha Highlands Interclub Figure Skating Competition. The event is slated for the Dysart Arena on Sunday, March 2nd.

The Interclub event is in its 37th year and, as usual, is expected to draw a large number of fans, supporters, skaters and volunteers here to Haliburton.

Lesley Lumley, the Kawartha Highlands Interclub Chairperson is expecting in excess of 600 people to be in attendance at the daylong event.

"We'll start the event at 8 a.m. and it will go until the last team has completed their Showtime Presentation," says Lumley.

She says that every year the event draws on skaters from clubs in Bobcaygeon, Bancroft, Fenelon Falls, Haliburton, Lakefield, Lindsay, Minden and Peterborough to round out the large field of competitors.

"Medals are awarded to any skater who finishes in first, second or third place, in their category," says Lumley. The competition points are tallied on the basis of points with 3 points for gold, two for silver and one for bronze. Each figure skating club collects points on the basis of medal tallies throughout the day. The club with the largest number of points wins the coveted KHIC Banner and lays claim to bragging rights for the next year.

Lumley says that the Haliburton Figure Skating Club has "been fortunate to win the banner twice in recent years." She adds that Haliburton will be in contention again this year.

Lumley says that skaters range in ages from 4 to 16. "Our

youngest skater is 7-year-old Ian Griffin and we are expecting him to do really well this year," says Lumley.

She says that Griffin will be skating in singles, pairs and the very popular Showtime Event.

"Showtime is a very cool event where all of the clubs put on a theater on ice," says Lumley. The Showtime events are the featured performances and are held at the very end of the evening portion of the competition.

She adds that age groups and categories are aligned to allow skaters to prepare and rest for participation in numerous events. "The program changes through the day, back and forth, and that allows most of the kids to participate in five or six events throughout the day," says Lumley.

Lumley has been spending her time with event organization in addition to her normal coaching and choreography duties. "I've been very busy, but it's certainly very exciting."

And while Haliburton Skating Club is able to spend a lot of time in last minute detailing and practice, some of the clubs involved in Interclub have not been quite as fortunate says Lumley.

"Because the City of Kawartha Lakes maintenance and arena staff are on strike, there is a possibility right now that three clubs will not be able to attend this year," says Lumley.

Lindsay, Bobcaygeon and Fenelon Falls skating clubs have not been able to access arena time due to the strike and she says that unless the strike ends this week, those clubs will not be able to participate.

"It's unfortunate, but they haven't been able to skate or practice because the arenas are closed and it looks, right now, like they won't be coming, unless there's a drastic change in the strike situation," says Lumley.

And that will serve to diminish some of the expected turnout, especially considering that a fair percentage of spectators who attend the event are family members and friends.

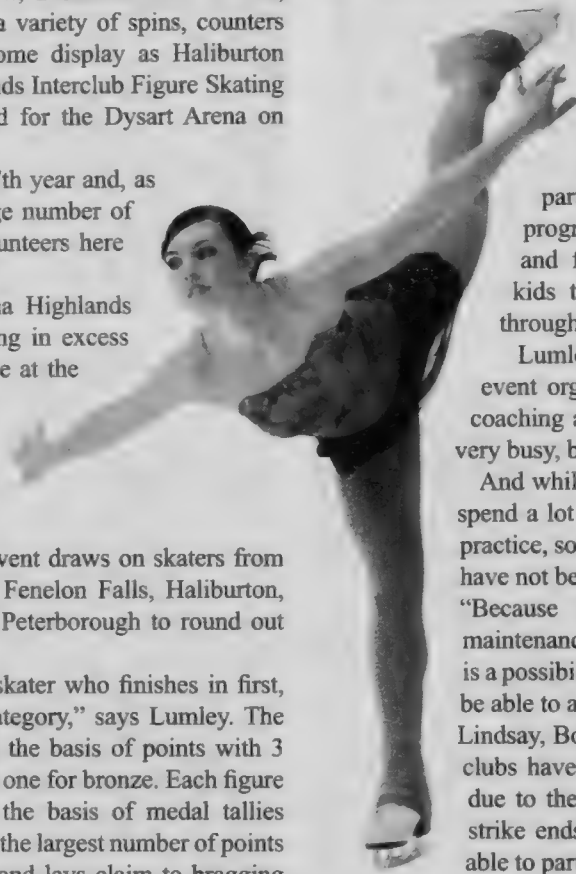
Lumley says that they are not going to dwell on that situation, but will continue to concentrate on event preparations.

She adds that they owe a great debt to volunteer staffers and the Haliburton Skating fraternity. "We rely entirely on volunteers and we owe them a lot," adds Lumley.

All of the clubs shuffle the responsibility for the event and thus Lumley says that Haliburton won't get a chance to host again until 2012. She adds that her stint as Chairperson has kept her busy on the ice and in the boardroom since March of 2007.

"The Haliburton Skating Club would be very appreciative of any donations such as sponsorship for ice time and events, donations to our raffle table or our competitor goody bags," says Lumley.

"The participants would like to invite all fans of figure skating to come out and enjoy the fun and excitement that this competition has to offer," says Lumley. Information and donation info can be had by contacting the chairperson at 286-4262.



Highland Storm Atom Girls in Weekend Playdowns



By Dean Chaulk

It's that time of year once again. The Highland Storm Atom Girls team sponsored by Subway Enterprises has completed their regular season games and are preparing for the playoffs. This veteran team finished their season with a record of 8 wins, 11 losses and 5 ties. These regular season games were action packed from buzzer to buzzer, with 95 percent of the games being decided by a goal. Dan Marsden and his coaching staff have done a great job of elevating the team to a level in which they have a chance to win every time they lace up their skates. From the parents' perspective, it felt like overtime from the time the first puck dropped until the final buzzer.

The girls last regular season game was held on Saturday at home vs. the Peterborough Wildcats. The team played to a 0-0 tie and the game was filled with exciting end to end action with the fans wishing that regular season games went into overtime.

I would like to congratulate the girls on another great season. They will face the Markham Stouville Atom team in a round robin for Lower Lakes Female Hockey League playdowns starting Friday February 22, 2008 at the Wilberforce Arena at 7:00. They will also be competing against Orillia and North Simcoe in the Provincial Playdowns for the divisional spot at Championship Weekend in April.

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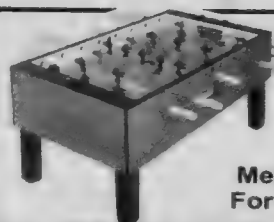
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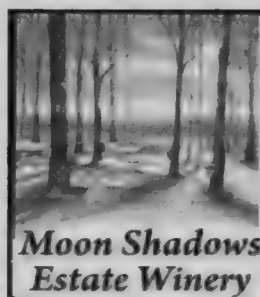


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Laura Trach, Textile Artist

Popular show receiving rave reviews

Tiffany Howe
County Voice

Now exhibiting in the Members Gallery at the Rails End Gallery is Textile Artist Laura Trach. In the textile world she would be considered a jack of all trades with her grasp on a variety of techniques, materials, and colours. Fabric, fibre, quilting, pattern drafting, dress making, felting, leather collage, thread painting, embroidery, beading, and appliqué are some of the processes Laura masters. Her goal is to combine all of her disciplines into one, which is evident in her recent pieces.

She was born in Kingston, and before finally settling in Haliburton in the year 2000, had moved more times than you can count on your hands. Within 13 years she attended 9 different schools! One of these moves brought her to London

where she studied Fashion at Fanshawe. The course was thorough and tough. Twenty four students enrolled and only 16 completed the program! She also opted for drafting over home economics. The skills learned there easily overlapped into pattern drafting for clothing, and by the time she was in college, she could draw accurate patterns freehand, astonishing her professors with her accuracy! Laura's passion for the subject and her drive pulled her through to her graduation in 1993. She has only good things to say about her experiences there. Fantastic teachers and subjects she truly loved, what more could one ask for?

Laura's affinity with fabric began long before college though. Her mother had also studied fashion in college so there was handmade clothing, and dolls, and plenty of material around the house all the time. Once, when her mother was away at college Laura decided to secretly raid her fabric stash. Upon finding a piece of gingham that she assumed her mother wouldn't miss, she decided to teach herself to make a skirt. When mom found out she was quite upset! That fabric just happened to be for a specific project. Being a good mother she realised Laura's potential and took her shopping for her own supplies. Neither of them could have known that this was the beginning of a long life in fabric for Laura.

She says "If you told me 10 years ago that I would be doing this, I wouldn't believe it!"

At the age of 16 Laura worked in a fabric store to keep her hand in the game. She worked her way through college doing a co-op program as a pattern maker. Over the years her versatility in textiles shone on her resume having jobs such

as a costume designer for Kanata Theatre, making race car driver suits at Leaf Race Wear, and figure skater costume designing in Ottawa. Once she moved to Haliburton she began teaching ski lessons at Sir Sam's and set up a workshop in her home. There she could do boat covers, custom clothing and furniture slip covers. "I kept myself amused," She says.

In 2005 Laura took the Textile program at the Haliburton Fleming College and "had a blast!" This experience launched her into the creative and explorative being she is today. "It's a shame it's not running this year", she exclaims. "If I could go back to school for the rest of my life I would!"

Looking at her recent work, her years of experience are obvious. Each piece is finely crafted and truly exquisite. Working out of a studio in her home, she produces an impressive body of work. Every piece is original as she prefers not to work from commercial patterns.

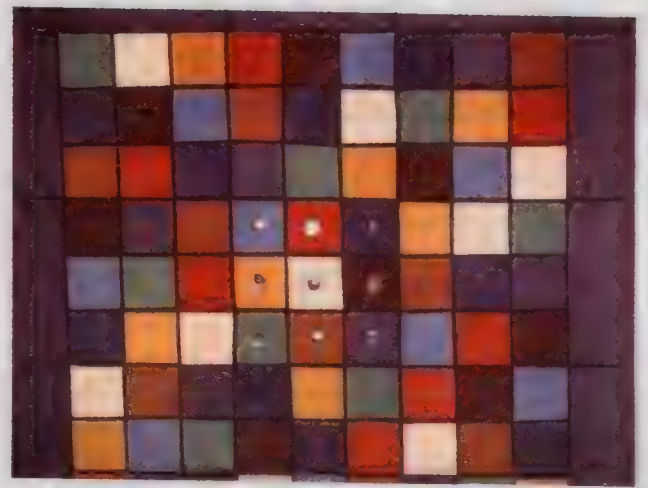
"When I just play the great things come out" she exclaims.

Such playfulness pops in pieces like "Peanut Gallery" which is a decorative quilt with little embroidered squirrels. But just because she lives in the woods of Haliburton County doesn't mean her work is all squirrels and trees: her work also portrays tropical

themes, abstracts, and things fresh out of her imagination. She also likes to do her rough drawings in crayon, and admits, "that's my medium. I have no problem saying that, I like crayons!"

One can see how well rounded Laura truly is when she says "Too many of us don't take the time; as people we have a need to build, be curious, experiment. If we don't exercise that we get stressed and then the health care system has to take care of it." She firmly believes in staying active, with a busy mind to keep healthy.

What does the future hold for this busy bee? Time can only tell, but she does plan on expanding her studio to include a dye kitchen, take a photography course, and possibly even teach. To get a closer look at her excellent collection of works go to the Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre in Haliburton before March 1st, or visit her at Orange Cat Studio, at 1153 Dennison Road, Carnarvon, by appointment. Her email is info@orangecatstudio.com. When you're there ask her how her studio got the name "Orange Cat" for a beguiling tale.



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The Uranium Mine Story Continued from Pg. 2

Liz Daniels
Staff Reporter

A Bit of a Donnybrook....

As a consequence, on Friday night people filled the Lloyd Watson Community Centre in anticipation of Bancroft Uranium's presentation and, even more, to take part in the question period that followed. Company President Les Hammond introduced his team and spoke of their experience. Hammond voiced his desire to dispel concerns people in the area have. He spoke of his company's expertise in mining operations and financial management throughout the world, saying "our company has a deep and abiding commitment to the protection of the environment."

Even at this early stage of Hammond's presentation, jeers were heard from the crowd, concerns about the sound system were raised and heated questions shouted out. Nevertheless, after attempts to improve the sound system, Hammond said there would be ample opportunity for questions later on, and continued to speak of their work to date. This included trenching, channel sampling, radiometric surveys and geological mapping. He spoke of his company's proposal to start a diamond drilling program later in the month which would determine the project's economic viability. Hammond covered his firm's commitment to the safety of workers, to the environment, to the safety of the community and to the ultimate remediation of their site. He mentioned the many acts and regulations that vigorously control their operations and assured the audience that an environmental impact study is required before any permit is issued. Hammond said that should a mining operation proceed there would be many benefits to the area, including employment (a minimum of 40 local jobs), construction of a crushing mill and office building, increased tax base as well as many spin off benefits. In response to his assurances that their operation would increase land values, a number of shouts of "Don't Go There!" were heard from the audience. Hammond then confirmed that water is one of their most critical concerns, and invited Derek Parks from Earth Tech Canada to speak.

Parks reviewed the expertise and success of his company in Canada and worldwide. He spoke of their work identifying environmental concerns at orphaned or abandoned mine sites adding that they are experts in health & safety requirements for workers, the community and the environment. Trevor Figueiredo of Greenspirit Strategies Ltd. then spoke about his company and their work. Immediate jeering met his comments about the importance of Dr. Patrick Moore's involvement in the project. Figueiredo said Moore had left Greenpeace after being in a position of confrontation for far too long. According to Figueiredo, Moore finally came to the conclusion he wanted to work on solutions to problems, in favour of something for a change, and it is his (Moore's) desire to help companies create a balance that meets the environmental, social and economic needs of any development. Figueiredo spoke of Greenspirit's desire to engage communities in discussion about projects, to be transparent and build trust. He said their focus is on science and they support nuclear energy as a sustainable source after involvement in a range of studies about alternate sources of energy. Figueiredo promised their project would meet and exceed all required regulations, using best practices and state of the art technology and reiterated their desire to engage the community throughout the process.

Engaging the Community.....

"Nay! Nay! We're all saying nay before you even drill!" "The people in Highlands East will not be walked over any more!"

Bancroft's group may not have expected quite as much 'engagement' as they got, or as much hostility. Provocative questions from the floor flew immediately from every direction ranging from why so much money is being injected into uranium mining rather than looking at alternatives, to specific questions about operations associated with the Monmouth Project. Concerns were raised about blasting operations in an open pit mine and how this would devastate the habitat of birds and animals and questions asked about whether Bancroft proposed to establish monitoring programs for effects on flora, fauna and wildlife. Patrick Moore's role in Greenspirit was challenged a number of times and Roger Young's statement that Moore was never a 'founding member' of Greenpeace was not disputed.

A number of arguments broke out about how to facilitate the meeting and finally it was agreed that Ron Reid of Haliburton would act as a moderator. It should be noted that the lack of a working sound system called for people in the audience to yell at the presenters and vice versa, which, to say the least, did nothing to elevate the mood in the room.

With Reid as moderator, things settled down. People wanting to pose questions or make comments lined up and were given a time allotment. Robin Simpson returned numerous times, as did several others, and continued to ask Bancroft for a guarantee in writing that the company would protect private wells from further contamination with no satisfactory response being provided. To Bancroft's report that all of their claim area is on Crown Land, Simpson clarified that is not the case, and even provided lot numbers. In response to concerns about health issues associated with workers in the mines, Figueiredo claimed there is no factual confirmation of health problems being directly related to uranium mining. Opinions between the two groups regarding property values in proximity to a uranium mine appeared to be worlds apart, with most residents agreeing that they believe their property values could decrease dramatically. A number of disparaging comments were made about local politicians' apparent support of the project. To questions about who would pay for future monitoring of the site, Hammond reiterated the government's requirement for a closure/remediation plan and his company's responsibility to leave millions of dollars in trust to guarantee this. To several questions about whether any of the uranium from this mine would go to the American war machine, Derek Parks responded that Canada is a signatory to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. Questions were raised about the dangers of contamination from open pit mining and resulting tailings and Parks spoke about radiation being a natural phenomenon in the area, which was met with a mixture of jeers from the audience and other calls to let the man speak. Christine Dahlke questioned Parks several times about the amount of radiation that would result from Bancroft's blasting and bombardment of the area each day. Like many other people in the audience, Dahlke was extremely concerned about contamination of her well. Saying that she wants to plant a garden this summer and to water it from her well, Dahlke asked Parks "will you be willing to come and have lunch from my garden and drink water from my well this summer?" and, while there was some laughter to Parks response of "sure I will" she said she would hold him to the promise.

Parks agreed to a statement from the public that while there were a lot of environmental & regulatory requirements

to be met before mining there were actually very few requirements during the exploration stage. To Parks comments that the company planned to keep the public informed of their process, the public chanted 'Nay! Nay! Nay! We're all saying nay before you even drill!' More

questions were asked, and Parks, showing his frustration to further shouts from the audience, said that at this point in time they were only in the communication stage, trying to determine general concerns about the project. He assured the audience that the next time the public had an opportunity to meet with them would be in the fall, adding if the results of their drilling program were positive, they would make further presentations to the public on how they proposed to proceed. Figueiredo also confirmed that Bancroft was at the very initial stages of their program and spoke about the public consultation process associated with a formal application.

Doug Smith stressed his concern about the process being followed, saying the meeting should be controlled by the community, not the company. He asked "if the community was to vote unanimously for you not to proceed, would you stop?" and for a show of hands to the question "Who wants the program to stop?" At least 85% of the audience voted for the program to stop now and the remaining 15% supported the program.

Two things that did get confirmed: Bancroft Uranium plans only to drill an area 150 feet wide and up to 400 feet long; only 35 hectares of their entire claim area will likely be developed, even if an open pit mine is proposed.

Along with several people who were simply looking for clarification, Ken Sanderson had a somewhat different perspective. Sanderson said he wasn't there to support the project and wanted to protect the environment as much as anyone, but he did ask people to listen before getting too involved. Saying he had 20 years of real estate experience, he spoke to the issue of property values, saying they should not be a concern. Sanderson used Cardiff as an example, saying that if it hadn't been for mining the community would not be there. According to Sanderson, homes in Cardiff could be bought for \$2700 dollars when the mines closed. Twelve years later they were selling for almost forty thousand and are now selling for more than ninety thousand dollars. In response to concerns about growth not returning to areas filled with uranium tailings, he spoke of a hundred car parking lot that had been built at the old Dyno site; an area that now you would need a chain saw to access, showing that natural re-growth was possible.

Frustrations in the room seemed to turn up a notch at that point. Further comments were made about the proposed mine affecting everyone in the room and "just like the asphalt plant, we can fight all we like but you'll get what you want anyway!" These comments caused more shouts of "No local jobs!" and "the people in Highlands East will not be walked over any more!" Ron Reid called for order, but did add that he doesn't want Bancroft's operation here either, agreeing that property values would likely decrease. He did add however, that as a moderator he was trying to keep the meeting civilized. A discussion again ensued about property values and Doug Smith called for a class action suit requiring the municipality to downgrade all of the property values in the area and suggesting that a paper be circulated to get names and numbers in order to marshal strength.

Finally, Bancroft Uranium President Les Hammond, having primarily stood in the wings listening to all of the concerns being voiced, thanked everyone for attending and promised to do what they could to alleviate concerns raised throughout the evening



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County Council Tackles Airport Concerns And Other Issues

Dan Schell
Staff Reporter

The Stanhope Airport expansion plans took top priority at the Haliburton County Council meeting on Wednesday of this week. Residents from the area presented their extensive research to the Councillors today in hopes that their voice would be heard before the plans are finalized for the proposed 5.8 million dollar airport expansion.

Doug Palmer, a representative of the Maple, Beech and Cameron Lakes Area Property Owners' Association, presented Council with extensive research about the flaws within the plan and the taxpayer's fears surrounding the controversial expansion. Palmer raised the concern that the main part of the expansion, a cross wind runway, will be useless to pilots as the main prevailing wind runway will never be long enough for take off according to Transport Canada.

Palmer also noted that the costs to the taxpayers could be substantial, as similar projects in other areas of Ontario have seen costs that have rise by 75% to more than double in a matter of a couple of years. The Association's research also showed a drop in profit in many municipal airports in recent years causing the taxpayers they represent to question the value of this expansion.

The airport expansion has also been the object of significant public opposition. "This past summer over 650 people in Algonquin Highlands signed a petition asking that all spending and development on the proposed runway cease," said Palmer.

Given this opposition, Palmer made a plea to Council to have more public consultation surrounding this project. "Shouldn't all large money projects and expenses here in Haliburton undergo at least a similarly thorough public scrutiny and input before significant funds are committed in our name?" asked Palmer to end his presentation.

Council also received updates from a number of different projects that have been recently been placed in action. Pat Kennedy, Director of Emergency Measures Service, presented an update on the recent Public Access Debrillator (PAD) program that has been working at providing them throughout the Haliburton Highlands. With an additional 11 sites awaiting approval, Kennedy stated that the program will be operating 34 sites. Though this is a positive for the program, Kennedy also announced that the future maintenance of the program will be close to \$20,000 per year.

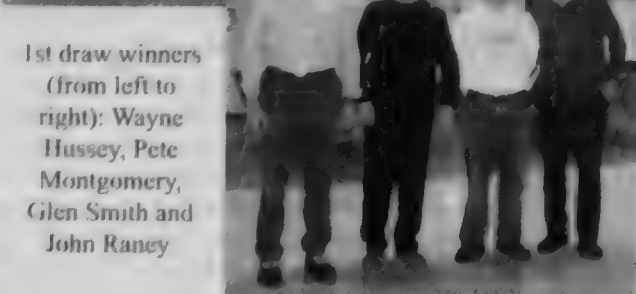
Dennis Casey provided council with an update on the progress made on Haliburton County's bid to hold the Ontario Summer Games. Casey announced that there has been progress made in finding athlete villages and venues for the events within the camps of the area with a number of camps confirming participation.

Bob Smith, Director of Economic Development, also unveiled the new County website dedicated to attracting businesses to the Haliburton Highlands, www.buisnesshaliburton.ca. The site provides in-depth information about the demographics of the Highlands area to attract outside businesses to the county.

Objections flared from Highlands East Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie in regards to the research and proposals made by the Forest Conservation Report that was presented to Council. Mackie adamantly opposed the recommendations that he suggested ignores the farming community within the Haliburton Highlands. As a result of his objection, Council set up a public meeting to discuss potential changes to the by-law on March 7 at 1:00pm at the County of Haliburton offices.



2nd draw and Overall winners of the trophy (from left to right) Percy McBain, Wes Lytle, Brian Murison and Del Watson



1st draw winners (from left to right): Wayne Hussey, Pete Montgomery, Glen Smith and John Raney

The 25th Annual Tom Stinson Senior Men's Invitational Bonspiel

The 25th Annual Tom Stinson Senior Men's Invitational Bonspiel was held recently at the Haliburton Curling Club. Sixteen teams from as far south as Orillia and north to Huntsville competed for the coveted trophy. The 1st place winners from the first draw were: from Haliburton, skip - Wayne Hussey, vice - Glen Smith, second - Peter Montgomery, and lead - John Raney. Second place team from Haliburton: skip - Don Wetmore, vice - Dave Connell, second - Joe Sheridan, and lead - Gary Bradshaw. Third place team were also from Haliburton skip - Peter Byer, vice - Dave Harris, second - Dick Duchemin, and lead - Joe Sebesta.

The second draw and overall winners were: 1st place from Haliburton, skip - Del Watson, vice - Brian Murison, second - Wes Lytle, and lead - Percy McBain. Second place team from Haliburton were: skip - John Smillie, vice - Moe Welch, second - Case Bassie, and lead - Doug Wagg. Third place was the team of John Worothny from Maynooth.

Bonspiel organizer Brian Murison would like to thank bonspiel helpers: Fred Houtby, Richard Rasmus, Glenn Smith, Wayne Hussey and Chester Howse for all their help. A special thank you to Janet Tice for an excellent meal as usual, and to her helpers, Sharon Murison, Irene Houtby, Luba Glachan, Beryl Rasmus and Pat Norman for helping out in the kitchen. Thank you to bartender Barry Tigert and as always a special thank you to John Watson for making the ice a pleasure to curl on.

Coltman Fundraiser a Success

Friends, family and customers come out to raise funds for mechanic's future



After the devastating loss of Ian Coltman's

garage recently to fire, his friends, family and customers recently got together to lend a helping hand by holding a fundraiser to help Coltman get his feet back on the ground. The event, which was held at Camarvon Bowl this past Saturday, provided a great time for the whole family while raising funds for their favourite mechanic.

Fundraiser coordinator Gina Atkinson was taken back by the amazing turnout to the event with around 150 people showing up for the cause. "The place was packed," exclaimed Atkinson who was thrilled to see the support pour in for Coltman. "I was totally ecstatic with the reaction we got, and the generosity of the community was amazing," said Atkinson who said that the donations flowed in for Coltman throughout the entire day.

The day was filled with fun-filled events for the whole family. The kids had a great time bowling the day away: each one even received a gift just for coming to the event.

The fun did not stop with the kids, as the adults enjoyed a great evening with a pool tournament that saw Frank Danovic take home the championship, followed by Renzo Rosati and Ian Coltman himself in third.

With door prizes and tonnie tosses, the event was fun for everyone, especially an extremely grateful Coltman. "Oh, what can I say, I was grateful," said Coltman. "I appreciate everyone involved and all who organized the event."



For future plans, Coltman offers some good news for all of his customers. "I am rebuilding in the spring," he announced. Many of his customers have generously offered to put in the labour to build a new shop for free, with Coltman only having to provide the building supplies for the workers to use. Coltman said that it has been amazing to see the people he cared enough to help out many times in different ways, come back and help him out in this time of need. "What goes around comes around, I guess."

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Local Musician Multi-Talented and Rising to the Top

Ryan Chalmers on his early success and bright future

by Dan Schell
County Voice

Ryan Chalmers was always destined to be a musician. This local artist has made quite an impression in the music industry as a multi-instrument musician, producer and most recently concert promoter. Though this success has been a life-changing experience for Chalmers, he has never forgotten his humble roots growing up in Haliburton.

"I started playing guitar at the age of 10," recalled Chalmers, "And joined my first serious band when I was 13." It was from his experience in working with older, more experienced musicians that Chalmers started to develop confidence in his musical talent and started considering a future in music.

From that point on, Chalmers became



addicted to all things musical, and began dreaming of becoming a musician for the rest of his life. Chalmers, who already played guitar, started to learn drums, bass and began to hone his vocal abilities in order to have as many musical skills as possible.

At 17, Chalmers became a professional musician and found that his ability to play anything that was put in front of him to be a benefit to him getting a number of different gigs. "It was so much easier to get work with all the instruments I could play," recalls Chalmers.

When Chalmers received agency representation, it set him up with a number of different tribute bands that travelled through Canada and the United States. Chalmers said it was one of the greatest experiences he has had in his career so far due to the life-long friendships he made.

Then, at the age of 19, Chalmers hit a huge break when he was hired on to be the guitar player for Canadian recording artist Fefe Dobson.

"I was the last to audition out of 400 musicians that tried out, and I was just happened to be what they were looking for," stated Chalmers.

As a part of Dobson's band, Chalmers enjoyed the sweet life of a rock star as he went on tour all over the world with the band. "Within two weeks, we played Paris, London and Berlin, it was amazing!" said Chalmers. One of the best parts of the Dobson tour was playing the huge venues all around the world. The biggest venue he recalls playing was the Rose Bowl with Dobson in front of 60,000 spectators, and sharing a stage with huge acts like Lenny Kravitz, Janet Jackson and Maroon 5. "It was the kind of thing high budget dreams were made of," laughed Chalmers looking back at that moment.

When Dobson went into recording her new album, Chalmers was let go and went back to recording with one of his own bands, Mindsight. Chalmers, who plays drums with the band, hit the recording studio in 2002 in both Toronto and Haliburton. While doing this, Chalmers jumped into doing more producing for some of his friend's bands on the side to make some money while doing the Mindsight album.

The Mindsight project was a large one to take



on, as Chalmers and the rest of the band wanted to take full control over the song writing and recording for the album. "We wanted the album to be completely organic," explained Chalmers who took a do it yourself approach to the production of the album.

This was a hectic time for Chalmers with many projects on the go. He was busy doing shows with another Toronto band, The Beautiful Unknown, and then the opportunity came to play with the group Obsidian, a band with deep roots in Haliburton with members Andrew Postlethwaite and Kevin Brezina. Chalmers quickly went into the recording studio with Obsidian as they got the opportunity to record with one of Canada's most respected producers, Matt DaMatteo, who has produced for bands like Big Wreck and Hawksley Workman.

"We hit some major roadblocks while we were writing the record, but, I sat there and bit my tongue," reflected Chalmers on his early role with Obsidian as just a musician. Eventually, Chalmers got a chance to start writing with the band, and that is where they became more of a cohesive unit. "We wouldn't move forward with anything unless we were 100% into what we were doing," described

Chalmers as he looks back at the hard times with Obsidian as a learning experience.

Since then, Chalmers and all of his projects have been finding some recent success and things are looking bright for his and his band's future.

Mindsight has released their new album "Gathering Mindsight" in November of 2007, with around 300 sales of the album in the first 30 days it was on the shelves. "I couldn't be any happier with the product that we created," said an excited Chalmers.

Obsidian is skyrocketing right now as their album is done and awaiting final mixing to begin before it gets released. Obsidian has also gained a reputation for being one of the most exciting live shows in Ontario today. Also, Obsidian has found some airplay on Muchmusic's metal based video station, Much Loud, for their new music video for the song "Ultimate Disaster".

- For any kids in Haliburton that have had aspirations of being a rock star one day, Chalmers is an example of how to do it. "It is definitely possible," encourages Chalmers, "it is not too far-fetched at all if you just believe you can do it."

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Obsidian Rocks the Competition

Three local musicians advance to the semi-finals of the Battala RockStars competition



Dan Schell
Staff Reporter

Battala RockStars is a competition that is making waves for up and coming bands across Canada and three local musicians are taking it by storm. Ryan Chalmers, Andrew Postlethwaite and Kevin Brezina, from Haliburton are part of the band Obsidian which has currently made it to the Battala RockStars semi-finals and are now being touted as favorites in the competition.

The Battala RockStars competition is a unique music event that sets two bands, on two separate stages, to go head-to-head in a battle of rock prowess. Each band is then judged by a panel of experts and the winner advances closer to the grand prize. The winner of the competition receives \$25,000 for the production of a professional demo, the chance to tour with a surprise major label Canadian act this year, and the exposure that comes with bring crowned champion Battala RockStars.

Obsidian has quickly swept through the competition so far knocking off two bands to make it to the semi-final stage. The band Bury the Bully was the first victim to fall to Obsidian at Jeff Healey's in Toronto, with the band Credible Witness failing to do so last week. Not only is Obsidian winning these battles, but they are doing it with ease. "We have each round so far by unanimous decision, and we are hoping to do the same in the semi-finals on February 28th," said Chalmers, who plays guitar and does backing vocals for Obsidian.

Chalmers has said that the competition has been a great experience for the entire band to show the Canadian music scene what Obsidian can do. The band could not have picked a better panel to impress, as the competition's expert panel includes the likes of music journalist Karen Bliss, Skate4Cancer organizer Rob Dryer, Our Lady Peace drummer Jeremy Taggart and acclaimed rock producer Gavin Brown.

Chalmers was excited to be performing for Brown, who has a reputation of taking new bands to a whole new level when he takes them under his wing in the recording studio. "Brown seems to get a hold of bands and make them sonically sound," explained Chalmers, "I really respect him."

Obsidian will face off this week against the band Bobby Dreadfull for the chance to move on in the competition. Watch The Voice for continued coverage and updates to come on Obsidian and the competition.

Library Move Considered

Highlands East does some housecleaning

Liz Danielsen
Staff Reporter

The Highlands East Council met on Monday to take a look at the existing use of their facilities and how that use could be improved. And their first order of business? What to do with the Ward 4 Library. Since amalgamation several municipal buildings have been declared surplus. Even more important, Council seems to be committed to streamlining operations to the greatest extent possible and getting the best use of their 22 primary buildings, while keeping operational and maintenance costs as low as possible.

In keeping with Council's commitment to retain existing libraries and make any necessary upgrades, the first focus at the meeting was the Ward 4 Library and whether it should be moved into the medical centre. Property Supervisor Glen Covert, packing a binder that tracks everything about the municipality's buildings, reviewed the condition of the library in detail. It was apparent from his comments that the building needs a lot of work. According to Covert the centre support beam is sagging, basement storage is very musty and water in the building is full of nitrates. In addition Covert reported the building isn't wheel chair accessible, needs an electrical upgrade and only offers 667 square feet of space. On the other hand, Covert says the medical centre has a new well, oil tank and furnace. Two new windows have been installed and more windows have been budgeted for this year. The medical building has 728 square feet of space that can be used for library space, is already wheelchair accessible, has excellent parking and the concrete slab foundation would relieve any concerns about load bearing for books. Covert says here are only two people working out of the medical centre at the present and if it housed the library, the building would be used to its full potential.

Council discussed the model presented by the Library Board for each facility which includes a recommendation for a minimum one thousand square feet. This would mean a small addition to the medical centre to bring it up to the recommended standard. Council weighed these requirements against the cost to complete necessary repairs on the existing library and directed staff to work on estimates for both options. Deputy Reeve Jim Mackie will report back to Council on the outcome of the Library Board meeting (on Wednesday) and how Council's discussions fit in with the County's goals. Council agreed as a whole that should a decision be made to make the move, costs associated with the medical centre would be offset by selling the existing library building. Reeve Dave Burton spoke about the need for public input before moving forward and Council concurred that a public meeting is necessary to let

residents consider options and associated costs. The public will be welcomed to a meeting to discuss the library at the Lloyd Watson Community Centre on February 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Covert reviewed the list of all facilities in each ward. According to Covert several storage/tool sheds and the old works garage are surplus. Council also discussed the disposition of tourism kiosks. Councillor Suzanne Partridge emphasized the need for strategic planning to determine Council's long term goals overall. Council then discussed the pros and cons of relocating various departments to make better use of their administration offices. Discussions even went to the extent of putting all departments under one roof, possibly the MTO Garage on Highway 118, but recognized the magnitude of renovations a move like that would require. One particular option that Council is considering is the relocation of the building and by-law departments to the Gooderham municipal building. This would create office space for the Clerk and open up the Council Chambers, making it more accessible to the public. CAO Stoughton-Craig voiced a concern about file sharing between departments and the need to have files digitized for easier access. Deputy Reeve Mackie suggested contacting firms that specialize in this process and Council agreed that she should check this out.

Discussion then moved on to the fire halls and their best use. Deputy Reeve Mackie and Councillor Stoughton stressed their commitment to keeping all of the fire halls open, and Council agreed. Council's discussions did, however, indicate the need for further discussion about equipment storage and placement at the various halls. After further discussion it was agreed that the Fire Chief and Station Commanders would be invited to a meeting to discuss placement of equipment. That meeting will be held in the Council Chambers on Thursday, February 28th at 7:00 p.m.

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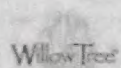


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Special Olympians Visit Minden

On Saturday evening Minden branch 636 of the Royal Canadian Legion hosted 96 Special Olympics supporters and athletes. In an effort to raise funds for the Haliburton County Red Wolves Special Olympics Teams, the branch donated the hall and catered the meal at cost.

The teams' coach, volunteer John Kellet, also organized a silent auction and Valentine's dance in support of the athletes. The hall was decorated in traditional red, pink and white Valentine's decorations, and the tables were trimmed with a hand made centerpieces.

There are presently eleven bowlers and five curlers competing, but John plans to form a baseball team this summer and possibly a hockey team in the future.

If you would like to help support Haliburton County special athletes, John can be reached at 286-2183.



Pictured are
Jason Hollowell,
Coach John Kellet,
Trevor Brauer, and
Carrie May Crego.

Escaped Gorilla Spreads Love Through Haliburton Streets

On Valentines Day you can expect the usual gifts: a bouquet of flowers, a beeswax candle or heart-shaped candies. But very rarely is the day of love associated with a song singing, kazoo playing, dancing gorilla. Until this year, that is.



Karen Pettrott receives a Gorilla-Gram

So, next Valentine's Day be a little different and send a fun (and somewhat embarrassing) Gorilla Candy-Gram for only \$50. It comes with a heart shaped balloon and a box of candy, and your very own stuffed Gorilla. Oh, and don't forget the dancing, singing big gorilla that brings it.

If you can't wait that long to get your hands on a stuffed Heartly gorilla they are available at the Community Care office year-round in the Halco Plaza in Haliburton for \$20.



Heartly Gorilla and Voice Publisher
Brett Irvine



Margret Harris - Volunteer Gorilla

Joel Potter
Staff Reporter

WHAT'S UP DOC?**Carol Sanio D.V.M.**

From the Minden Animal Hospital



February is
Dental Health
Month

BRUSH YOUR TEETH!

When I first started to tell clients about brushing their pet's teeth, I got looks of astonishment and lots of laughter. We have come a long way and now I generally get "yes I brush my pet's teeth" or a look of guilt and comments like, "I know I should but....." And so ignorance becomes guilt. That is progress.

Oral hygiene has perhaps been the most neglected aspect of pet health care. It is estimated that 90% of pets over 2 years of age have significant mouth disease. Many of those have need for immediate attention.

It should come as no surprise that this is the case. After all, dogs and cats have teeth just like we do, and the same conditions that lead to our tooth and gum problems also occur in our pets' mouth.

As well as pain and discomfort, periodontal disease puts your pet at risk for other problems such as lung, heart, kidney, and joint infections. This occurs because bacteria get into the bloodstream when the gums bleed (bacteremia) every time they eat or chew. Small amounts at a time are not a huge problem but over time, every meal, this bacteria load causes significant damage. Removing large pieces of tartar from the teeth without scaling and polishing is not good for the teeth or the pet. Dogs and cats have half the amount of enamel that people do and so scraping the teeth can really damage them. Pulling off those big chunks of tartar might make us feel like we have done some good but the disease process continues under the gum line and the teeth are often harmed.

Brushing the teeth can be made easy. Do it before a meal, make that the benefit for getting them brushed. Food motivated animals will want them brushed often. Hold the mouth closed, use a child soft toothbrush or a special small cat toothbrush and pet toothpaste only. The pet toothpaste is not meant to be spit out like human paste is and it has flavors your pets like such as poultry, seafood and beef. Not all toothpaste is made the same. Be sure to get an enzymatic one and one your pet loves, this will make it easier for you and your pet. Baking soda should not be used as it can cause stomach upset and metabolic problems in smaller dogs and cats. It really does not taste great either.

Dental home care needs to start when animals are young. Teaching good oral hygiene to young pets is very important part of preventative health care.

Puppies normally have 26 deciduous (baby) and 42 adult teeth. Cats have 26 deciduous teeth and 30 adult teeth. The permanent teeth should push out the deciduous teeth. At no point should there be two teeth in one spot. If you notice this occurring, you should consult your veterinarian and have the deciduous tooth extracted immediately. If left in this condition, malpositioning of the adult tooth can occur, and plaque and tartar can accumulate more rapidly. This is quite often a problem in the small breeds and in the short-nosed breeds (e.g. Pug, Boxer).

Remember for pets:

Don't use human toothpaste

Do try to perform dental home care at least once daily

Don't let your dog chew on cow hooves or hard bones as these are too hard and teeth may break

Don't consider dental home care as an alternative to full dental cleaning if your pet has more advanced dental disease. Do make it fun to brush the teeth and always reward afterwards.

Do not forget that good dental health helps keep your pets healthier longer.

**Dear Abby**

by Abigail Van Buren

DEARABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl. Lately I have been dealing with overwhelming feelings of sadness and depression. Just recently I found out that my sister's ex had physically abused her and her daughter. When my sister told me, she made me swear I wouldn't tell our parents. Not only do our parents not know, but she refuses to take it to court or to report it. When I confronted her, she told me she would rather put it behind her and forget about it.

I don't understand how she can let this man get away with what he did.

I don't know who to turn to. If I tell my parents, my sister will never trust me again. But if I don't tell, he might come back and hurt them. Please tell me what to do. — TERRIFIED FOR MY SISTER

DEAR TERRIFIED: Your sister, like many victims of domestic violence, may blame herself for what happened to her and feel too embarrassed to report it. It is also not uncommon for men who beat up their partners to also abuse their children.

For her daughter's sake, the crime(s) should have been reported when they occurred and there was solid proof. However, because she didn't do that, I can only hope that she will keep the child away from her father — who obviously hasn't enough impulse control to safely act as a responsible parent.

Some secrets are meant to be kept, but this isn't one of them. There is no reason you should carry this burden alone. Tell your parents and don't feel guilty about it. I have been advised that depression is anger turned inward. You are sad because you feel helpless to do anything about your sister's circumstances. Once your parents know what happened, they can help your sister ensure her safety and that of her daughter.

DEAR ABBY: I'm having a problem with the older sister of my daughter's best friend. I'll refer to the girl as "Cassie." Cassie is 16 or 17, and she's attracted to my significant other of 19 years, "Adam," who is 42. Adam and I are friendly with Cassie's parents. We socialize with them at school sporting events, as well as at-home get-togethers.

YOUNG
FRIEND OF
THE FAMILY
HAS BECOME
A LITTLE TOO
FRIENDLY

Over the past year, Cassie has started coming up to me and asking, "Where's Adam?" Then she will run and jump into his arms, wrapping her legs around his waist as she says "Hi." Adam said she sometimes smacks him on the behind. She also stands directly in front of him and says things like, "Doesn't my butt look good?"

We have discussed this as a family, and have indicated to our daughter that we would never tolerate the same actions on her part. She agrees and expresses disgust. I have also pointed out to Adam that this would not sit well with him if, in two years, his daughter began exhibiting the same behavior with a friend's father — or anyone else, for that matter.

How do we handle this without our friends becoming insulted? We suspect they think Cassie's behavior is "cute." — DISGUSTED IN DECATUR, ILL.

DEAR DISGUSTED: Cassie's behavior is extremely inappropriate. You have described a young woman who has never learned boundaries. Could she have emotional problems?

If it happens again, Adam should tell her in plain English that she's too big and too heavy, and he doesn't like it. If she touches him inappropriately, he should tell her to stop because it is "disrespectful." As the adult, it's up to him to apply the brakes.

As to her questions about her posterior, it boggles my mind that Adam would actually respond to them, so he should continue to ignore them. It may also be necessary to stop socializing with the parents.

P.S. One way to approach the parents might be for Adam to call Cassie's father and ask what kind of insurance they have, in case his back goes out the next time their daughter jumps on him!

Help Me, Harlan!

BY HARLAN COHEN



Dear Harlan,

I have become good friends with an older man. He's 48, and I'm 26. We do not work in the same office, but I often have to work with him on projects. Although NOTHING inappropriate has EVER happened between us, people are beginning to spread rumors that he and I are having an affair. He is happily married, and I am in a committed relationship. I never had much of a father-figure growing up, and I look to him as a mentor, nothing more. We are never alone in the same room together, and the only time I have contact with him is when we are working together. While we are working, we do talk about our personal lives and other issues. He has given me a lot of good advice, and maybe we should've kept the conversation strictly work-related, but how can you work closely with someone for six years and not get to know him a little? He has daughters who are close to my age, and he has told me he sees me as one of his daughters. I value his friendship and don't want these ugly rumors to ruin things between us, but I don't know how to handle this situation. So far, he and I have ignored the rumors, but I fear they will continue to get worse until I am forced to no longer work with him in order to save both our reputations. Please help!

Defamed in Pennsylvania

Dear Defamed,

People at work need something to talk about. And you're it.

If you're sitting on his lap while he mentors you, your co-workers have a reason to think you are having an affair. If everything is legit, these rumors will pass. The more you let them consume you, the more you'll give your co-workers something to gossip about. While it might be uncomfortable to talk about, ask your mentor what he thinks and how he feels this situation can be defused. Considering this man is your mentor, he might be able to offer some suggestions.

All that being said, a part of me can't help but wonder if you like him in a way that's more than just a mentor. I mean, if there wasn't some truth to this then you could just turn the other cheek and move on. Ugly rumors that have no foundation will dissolve over time — assuming there isn't any truth to these rumors, this, too, shall pass.

Dear Harlan,

I was shocked and dismayed in your answer about "Distracted student might be more than a social butterfly." The drugs used today are the modern-day equivalent to the frontal lobotomy. My grandson has been put on these drugs and has turned into a zombie, with a marked change in personality and demeanor. He doesn't eat, doesn't sleep, doesn't participate in sports anymore, hardly talks and has glazed-over eyes. He was never aggressive with other children and was always cheerful and bouncy, but could sit perfectly still during movies and plays. Now he doesn't talk at school or have any friends.

A Grandma in Minnesota

Dear Grandma,

I'm shocked and dismayed by your shock and dismay. I never told anyone to take medication. I suggested getting evaluated for ADHD. There are nonmedical approaches to help treat attention deficit disorders. As for your grandson, I'm sorry he's had such a tough time, but there are countless people who have been helped by medication. Maybe he needs a new doctor to evaluate his meds.

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Freezing Rain Keeps Many Home For Family Day



Mark Arike

Staff Reporter

Sidewalks turned treacherous and road conditions were far from ideal when Mother Nature lashed out at us with her icy downpour on Sunday, Feb. 17.

Those in Haliburton County weren't finding much enjoyment in the vicious weather that made driving risky and even challenged those on foot. The rain, which put a layer of ice on everything it hit, kept many indoors while those who actually came out of hiding incurred more of a challenge than they bargained for.

"I live in Dover Hill and the side roads were terrible," said resident Linda Shpilman. "It was sheer ice. I had to have my husband drive me to work in his truck. There was very little salt on the road when I went out at 6:30 a.m."

"The roads were brutal on both days," said Brian Nicholson, Roads Dept. Superintendent. "They were worse on Monday than the Sunday. Our operations commenced at 2 p.m. Sunday and stopped at dark for safety reasons. We got our trucks going again on Monday at 4 a.m. and went until all roads were sanded. We had several one-ton pick-ups with sanders that needed assistance where they slid and got stuck in snow banks," said Nicholson.

OPP officers also had their hands full with the problems the weather helped generate.

"We had about 29 occurrences on Sunday," said Const. Mark McMaster. "Nine were motor-vehicle collisions; one of them involved snow machines." McMaster went on to say that other calls received were from stranded motorists reporting hazardous road conditions.

"One guy went and dialed 9-1-1, which we would not recommend," he stressed. According to the constable, Family Day on Monday didn't receive quite the same number of calls. "I guess people didn't venture out," he said.

The freezing rain disrupted all aspects of business, recreation, and family time in the County. "I couldn't even make it from Haliburton to my home on Fred Jones Road," said Harold Foyster, organizer of the March 1st Highlands Cup snowmobile races. "I had to stay in a Motel: but at least it didn't hurt our race surface."

The County Voice and Highlands Communicator publishers, Brett and Joanne Irvine, were also forced to spend the night in town – on a pull-out futon in their offices: and dozens of employees all over Haliburton were in the same predicament.

By Monday most main thoroughfares were cleared, but still both Haliburton and Minden businesses saw sharply reduced traffic, despite the Family Day holiday. In fact, the holiday meant a lot of people simply didn't even attempt to drive – thereby saving a lot of fender benders, or worse.

Have Your Say... VOX POP

We asked people how they coped with the freezing rain and bad weather.



Sue Rae – "I'm coping. It didn't stop us. We had to drive to a hockey tournament."



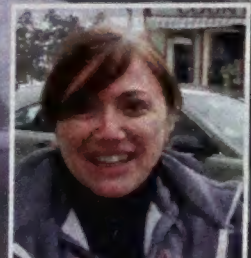
Jim Henwood – "It sucks. I've been getting through it I guess. Hopefully we get a decent snowfall. The longer you're here, you think you'll get used to it, but you're at the mercy of the weather."



John Peel – "It's just like anything else you have to learn to live with. I could hardly make it out of the driveway because of the hill I live on."



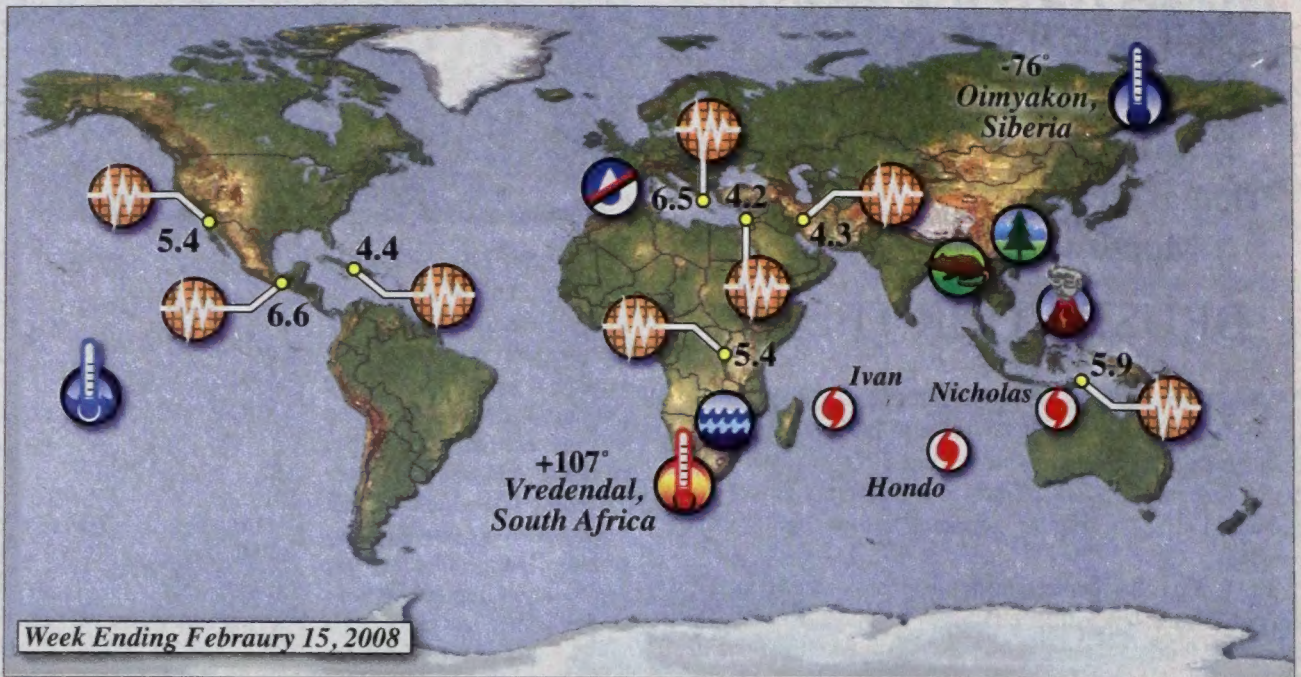
Catherine Swift – "We're going dog sledding up in Haliburton Forest."



Andrea Humpel – "We've been coping well! Our power went out while we had 17 people over dinner. We stayed in and played cards."

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman



La Nina Persists



The La Nina ocean-cooling in the tropical Pacific is likely to linger for a few more months, bringing further global weather disruptions, according to the World Meteorological Organization. The cool phase of the La Nina/El Nino cycle began early last year, and has since been responsible for devastating floods across Africa, drought in parts of the southern United States and, to some degree, even the recent Chinese deep freeze, the U.N. agency reports. Climate expert Rupa Kumar Kolli said that computer models point to La Nina lasting through June, then slowly weakening to allow near-normal Pacific Ocean temperatures to return later this year.

Chinese Forest Disaster



Freak January snow and freezing temperatures that paralyzed many parts of China in January also damaged or destroyed one-tenth of the country's forests, according to state media. The *China Daily*, citing the State Forestry Administration, said a total of 43 million acres of forest in half of the country's provinces were affected by three weeks of savage wintry weather. The administration warned that further damage could occur as dead trees and downed branches dry up, posing an increased risk of forest fires this summer. The government says it plans to launch a massive planting effort in the spring to reforest affected areas.

Indian Ocean Cyclones



Tropical Cyclones Ivan and Hondo churned the open waters of the Indian Ocean without threatening any land areas.

- Cyclone Nicholas formed just off Australia's northwestern coast.

African Inundations



Torrential rainfall across southern Africa from Mozambique to Angola has forced the evacuation of tens of thousands of people and prompted the U.N. to seek international funding for emergency relief efforts. "We are only halfway through the rainy season and with more heavy rain expected, we must be able to assist potentially hundreds of thousands more people," John Holmes, U.N. under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, said. Most recently, more than 10,000 people in southern Angola were forced from their homes by flash flooding.

Iberian Drought



The driest winter across parts of the Iberian Peninsula since 1917 has created such acute water shortages that cities such as Barcelona are drawing up a drastic plan to import drinking water by ship from Marseilles, in southern France, if spring rains fail to arrive. The long-range weather outlook for the next few months points to some showers, but not enough rainfall to help with the ongoing drought.

Earthquakes



The second strong earthquake to strike East Africa within two weeks killed one person and injured 60 others along the Democratic Republic of Congo-Rwanda border.

- A moderate tremor in western Iran damaged dozens of buildings and injured 10 people.

- A wide area of southern Greece was shaken by two strong quakes.

- Earth movements were also felt in northern and southern Mexico, southeastern Cuba and Lebanon.

Philippine Rumbblings



Increased activity within the central Philippines' Kanlaon volcano prompted officials to put nearby areas under alert, meaning that the mountain could expel blasts of steam and ash at any time. Located on Negros Island, Kanlaon produced a series of minor ash explosions during June and July of 2006, but activity dwindled by late in the year. On Aug. 10, 1996, Kanlaon erupted without warning, killing two students who were among 24 mountain climbers that became trapped near the summit.

A Blossoming of Rats



The first flowering of southeast Bangladesh's bamboo forests in 50 years has led to a plague of rats that has destroyed crops and brought the region to the brink of famine. The number of rats exploded late last year as the flowers provided a huge food source for the pests, prompting accelerated breeding. The bamboo flowering occurs about once every 50 years, with the last occurrence in 1958 causing a similar rodent plague. That infestation brought about a crippling famine for three consecutive years. The U.N. Development Program (UNDP) says that nearly all of the crops in the Chittagong Hill Tracts have been devoured by the burgeoning rat population. UNDP spokesman Prasenjit Chakma told the BBC that people there are eating roots to survive, and that the denuded fields are now dotted with large rat holes. Scientists have been unable to determine why this one species of bamboo flowers in synchrony, over hundreds of square miles, once every five decades.

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